

Hafa Adai!

House passes bill establishing Medicaid agency. **PAGE 2**

Palau is added to EU's blacklist of tax havens. **PAGE 3**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

PSS to cut salaries again

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The standing committee of the Public School System's Board of Education met yesterday to gird themselves

for organizational and salary adjustments that need to be made as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, which is having a dire impact on the CNMI economy.

See PSS on Page 4

The CNMI State Board of Education standing committee meets yesterday at the Board of Education office on Capital Hill to deliberate on further austerity measures.

JUSTINE NAUTA

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Path to green card now harder

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has come out with new forms in connection with the implementation of its inadmissibility on public charge grounds final rule, making it more difficult for lower-income immigrants to adjust their immigration status and obtain a "green card" or have their residency status approved.

» **USCIS publishes revised forms on public charge grounds final rule**
» **Move seen to impact lower-income immigrants**

A public charge is a person who receives government cash assistance for income or long-term care. That means one who received food stamps or Medicare, among other government-funded benefits.

See PATH on Page 4

Net budget for FY 2021: \$111M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With still 40 days to go before the statutory deadline for the governor to submit a proposed budget for the next fiscal year,

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres now has a definite number on the amount that the CNMI government will be budgeting for operations for fiscal year 2021: \$111 million.

Special assistant for man-

agement and budget Virginia Villagomez disclosed that after deducting all earmarks, Settlement Fund payments, and debt service, the net budgetary resources available for

See NET on Page 4

Samaritan's Purse aided over 7K

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Samaritan's Purse International Disaster Relief organization was able to provide millions of dollars' worth of relief to over 7,000 CNMI residents after the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

This was learned in an interview yesterday with Rev. Franklin Graham, Samaritan's Purse president

See PURSE on Page 4

Rev. Franklin Graham, Samaritan's Purse president and CEO, is on Saipan to speak at the Marianas Festival of Hope this Friday at the American Memorial Park starting at 5:30pm.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Toys for Tots program distributed a total of 5,000 toys in the CNMI last December.

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BUSINESS

Bistro Marianas Restaurant and Bar has opened inside the Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel.

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ASIA

New virus cases in China continue to fall, with 1,749 new infections and 136 new deaths.

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Local

House passes bill establishing Medicaid agency

» **Bill will also create clinical data warehouse; lawmakers work on legislation to get chunk of \$60M federal funding**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The House of the Representatives unanimously passed on Tuesday a bill that will establish the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency as a separate agency under the Office

of the Governor and also creates a claims and clinical data warehouse.

All 19 House lawmakers passed Senate Bill 21-28 House Substitute 1 after lengthy discussions. Rep. Christina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) was excused as she is cur-

rently off-island. The bill now goes to the Senate.

In a later interview, House Committee on Health chair Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) said the original bill was introduced by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) in the previous legislature, but he substituted

everything in it to address the concerns raised in that bill.

Igisomar's bill seeks to establish a claims and clinical data warehouse at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and to improve accountability for how health insurance premiums are spent by requiring health insurance insurers and health care providers to submit reports on claims and clinical data to the insurance commissioner.

Itibus said the concerns that were brought up by Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan) were really in regard to the original bill, which was the establishment of the clinical data warehouse that would be handled by CHCC.

Itibus said CHCC initially did not support the original bill because it required many things of CHCC and that concern has been addressed in the new bill.

He said he and members of the House Committee on Health and Welfare worked on this bill because the CNMI, with the help of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-

MP) wants to tap a portion of \$60 million in federal funding that is available.

"If we don't have an established clinical data warehouse, we will lose a chunk of that money. But with implementation of a clinical data warehouse, which is under the Medicaid, we will get a lot of those \$60 million," Itibus said.

Itibus said they closely examined the bill and worked with three agencies so make sure that it will benefit the people of the CNMI.

Itibus said that he held on to the bill and, when he made it back to his second term as a representative, he re-introduced it, this time addressing many of the original bill's concerns. He said he took those concerns from the previous comments and worked to address those issues in his new bill.

"That's how we came out with this new bill," the lawmaker said.

He noted that there were some insurance representatives in the gallery during Tuesday's session, but when he explained the bill to them

and provided them a copy of the House's version so they can look at it, they eventually supported it.

Itibus said the concern that was brought up at the session was really referring to the original Senate Bill 21-28. He said the bill that was discussed Tuesday was Senate Bill 21-28 House Substitute 1.

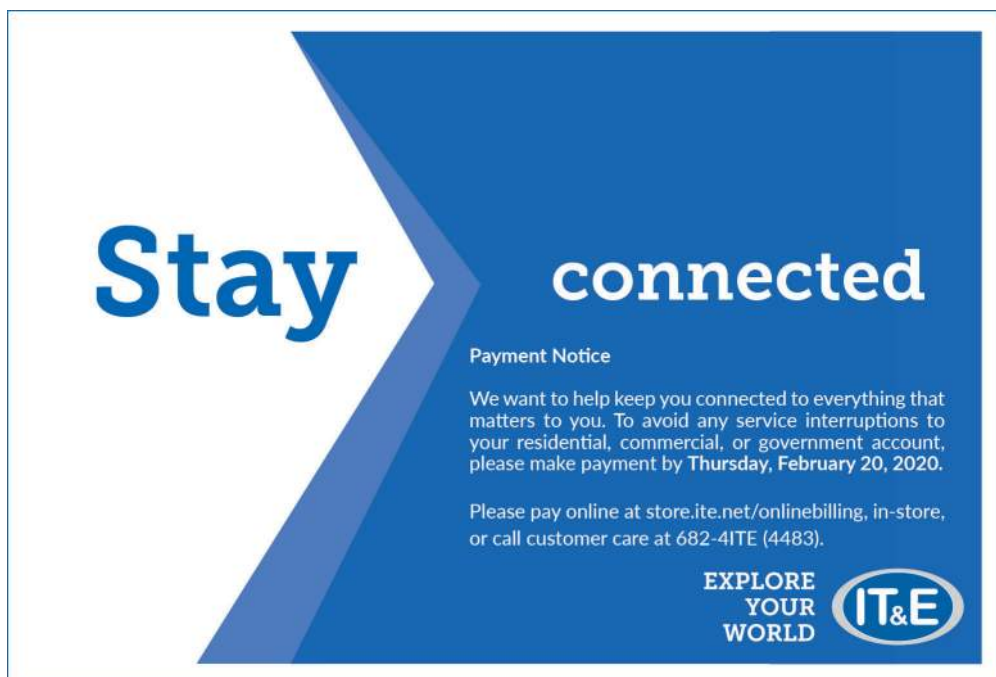
"This new substitute that we put in, we changed the whole content of S.B. 21-28 based on the concern from the insurers. We changed it to address their concerns," he said.

Itibus said they substituted the bill based on working with Medicaid and CHCC.

Medicaid is a federal and state/territory program that helps with medical costs for some people with limited income and resources.

According to the House, the CNMI's Medicaid program was originally established under the authority of the Department of Public Health and Environmental Services in 1978. With the passage of Public Law 16-51 in 2009, the Medicaid program was transferred to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. In 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services directed

See **MEDICAID** on Page 4



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Palau is added to EU's blacklist of tax havens

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union has added four countries and jurisdictions to its blacklist of tax havens, including the British overseas territory Cayman Islands.

EU finance ministers decided to also add Palau,

Panama, and the Seychelles to the list of jurisdictions that have not implemented the necessary tax reforms to be in line with EU standards.

The EU has set up the system to sanction those it deems guilty of unfairly offering tax

avoidance schemes. Eight jurisdictions are already listed: American Samoa, Fiji, Guam, Oman, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, U.S. Virgin Islands and Vanuatu.

The addition of the U.K. territory of the Cayman Is-

lands stood out considering that Britain just left the EU at the end of last month.

European lawmaker Markus Ferber, of the Christian Democrat EPP group, said it should serve as a warning to Britain as it tries to position itself in the global economy as a country outside the EU.

"The U.K. would be well advised to take note that EU Finance Ministers put a British Overseas Territory on the blacklist of tax havens. This sends a clear signal that the idea of turning the U.K. into a tax haven will not be acceptable to the EU," Ferber said.

Being on the blacklist can

affect the EU funds a nation can receive but EU Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said that the public shame was just as important.

"There are reputational consequences because being blacklisted by the EU clearly is a signal about the problems in tax governance," Dombrovskis said.

CWA, WAO to kick off Women's Month on Feb. 28



CNMI Women's Association board members pose for a group photo after their meeting last Feb. 19 at the CNMI's Women's Association office on Capital Hill.

JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Women Association, in collaboration with the Women's Affairs Office, will be kicking off the Woman's Month this March with a proclamation signing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Feb. 28.

The overall purpose of Woman's Month is to celebrate women and to highlight the essential roles that they play. The CWA has various events that are coming up with a theme that is focused on continuing to raise women leading sustainable development.

" Oftentimes women are only recognized as being leaders of their home but not recognized for being leaders in government or even entrepreneurship," said CWA board member Sharina Clark. It's therefore important and empowering for young girls to see that they aren't limited in how they will grow up to be, that there are many things they can achieve in other spheres like business and politics, Clark added.

One of their main events is the Women Exposition that will be held on March 24; the CWA will showcase women entrepreneurs and artists, since not many people know who they are or what home busi-

nesses are available.

The CWA is inviting the public to witness the proclamation signing on Feb. 28 at the Multi-Purpose Center and to also witness other activities that will be happening throughout the week.

"This is really important

to highlight the success of women and what's happening around us," said Women's Affairs Office's Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro. "It's our time and we want to make sure that everyone's comfortable and they're there to witness what's going on too."

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\$100K bail set for alleged 'ice' traffickers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on two women allegedly involved in trafficking "ice" or methamphetamine.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a \$100,000 cash bail last Tuesday on Carrie Jane Delos Reyes Ada, 37, and Miriam Bernabe Buatis, 45, two of four who were arrested last Monday for alleged "ice" trafficking.

The two other individuals who were arrested last Monday were James Q. Reyes, 47, and George T. Manglona, 38. A warrant of arrest has also been issued for Juan Sablan Ada, 43, who has yet to be found.

After learning from CNMI

Drug Enforcement Task Force informants that all four were allegedly selling "ice," DETF officers obtained surveillance authorization from the court and conducted separate investigations and buy-walk operations.

According to court documents, Buatis was allegedly caught distributing and selling "ice" during a buy-walk operation on Dec. 10, 2019.

During the sting operation, a DETF cooperating source was able to purchase \$100 worth of "ice" from Buatis at her home in San Jose.

As for Ada, DETF cooperating source was able to purchase 1.3 grams of methamphetamine worth \$450 during a buy-walk operation on Dec. 2019.

Both Buatis and Ada were released after they agreed to

assist the CNMI government in other drug-related cases.

However, both have not provided any substantial cooperation so the Attorney General's Office asked the court to revoke their temporary release.

Ada and Buatis will be arraigned by Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja on March 12 at 9am.

According to a press release from the Department of Public Safety, the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force executed four arrest warrants for Buatis, Ada, Reyes, and Manglona on Feb. 17 for illegal possession and trafficking of a controlled substance.

The arrests were made pursuant to arrest warrants issued by the Superior Court judges with bail for each defendant set at \$100,000.

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PATH

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments about the public grounds final rule from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) but he has yet to reply as of press time.

PURSE

From Page 1

and CEO, who is visiting the CNMI to headline the Marianas Festival of Hope, an evangelical concert, this Friday at the American Memorial Park starting at 5:30pm.

Graham told *Saipan Tribune* that Samaritan's Purse sprang to action immediately after learning of the severity of Super Typhoon Yutu.

"I didn't know anything about it, because, you know, I just hadn't read about [Yutu]. So, I Googled really quickly and I saw how destructive it was and how much damage it had done. We then put an action to send a couple of people here first. They came and talked to the churches to see what was needed," Graham said.

The group, which is based in North Carolina, was eventually able to provide aid to 7,600 CNMI residents. "I think it was 80 tons of relief supplies, tarps, shelter material. We also had water purification units, and the generators that went to Tinian. It would have been in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Sablan earlier stated that the Trump administration can now deny extensions or deport CW-1 workers, E2-CNMI investors, and green card applicants, if deemed likely to become a public charge.

USCIS said the revised forms are consistent with the final rule on the public charge ground of inadmissibil-

ity, which the U.S. Homeland Security, including USCIS, will implement starting later this month.

Starting Feb. 24, for any new application to adjust status, applicants and petitioners (except in Illinois where the final rule remains enjoined by a federal court) must use new editions of 12 forms.

It may have been a couple of millions because it was not only the supplies but getting that supplies and airfreighting it over here," he said.

Besides people, Samaritan's Purse also helped transfer a lion and a tiger from a badly damaged zoo on Saipan to The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado. That earned the group the Compassionate Action Award from animal-rights group PETA, or People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

In all, Samaritan's Purse airlifted more than 80 tons of relief supplies to Saipan.

Graham said he is proud of their speedy response to the disaster because they were able to help thousands of families in need. "When people are hurting, you need to move quickly. So we loaded [our airplane] up with cargo, came, landed, then went back to United States, loaded up again, and came back. [We made] three trips, I believe," he said.

Graham assures the CNMI community that in the event the CNMI faces another tragedy like Yutu, Samaritan's Purse will be ready to help. "We will certainly come back

if there was another tragedy. We love the churches here, the people here. We've gotten to know a number of people as a result of our work here. So we will continue to have Saipan in our hearts and we will continue to support Saipan," he said.

With direct disaster assistance now done, Samaritan's Purse is turning its focus to spiritual aid, Graham said. "We were here for the physical and now we're going to take time to work with the churches and focus on the spiritual, which we believe to be far more important," he said.

Graham added he wants to instill in the hearts of CNMI residents that, whether the economy goes up or goes down, they can be secure in the knowledge that their sins are forgiven.

"I think it's very important that people know that...they can have a relationship with God," he said.

The Festival of Hope, where Graham will serve as the main speaker, will also feature special guests Michael W. Smith, Tommy Goomes Band and Dennis Agajanian, among others.



File photo shows a second batch of supplies from a disaster relief organization Samaritan's Purse are unloaded from the organization's plane.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

NET

From Page 1

appropriation in fiscal year 2021 is \$111,195,556.

The law that set the CNMI's budget for this fiscal year, Public Law 21-08, appropriated \$233.22 million for the CNMI. Last Feb. 7, though, Finance Secretary David Atalig informed Torres that the gross revenue estimates for the current fiscal year are now expected at \$184.83 million, which is a drop of \$48.39 million from the \$233 million that was originally projected. Much of that was blamed on the lingering effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the CNMI in October 2018.

Villagomez discussed the governor's proposed annual budget for fiscal year 2021 in her Feb. 3 memorandum to all department and activity heads, autonomous/semi-autonomous agencies, independent programs, and federal programs.

In it, she said that the \$111.19 million is a 25.31% drop in the budget

and will cause a significant reduction affecting all branches of the government. Villagomez said revenue projections for this budget are based on the assumptions of current collections and accounts for key economic factors anticipated to affect the CNMI's growth in economy. Those key factors include the trend in current collections, the cancellation of the four weekly flights from China due to the coronavirus outbreak, and the risk factors over emerging global events.

When asked to comment yesterday, House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) said it is too early to comment on the budget, but he is glad that the Office of Management and Budget has reached out to agency heads for the budget call.

Blanco said there are adjustments that need to be made, and they won't know what those changes are until revenue numbers are realized.

He said this is the same for the remaining seven months of fiscal year 2020.

While the 64-hour work reduc-

tion won't kick off until mid-March, Blanco said he wants to take this opportunity to seek help from the business community, on behalf of all employees, that they consider extending interest-free loan/mortgage/vehicle payment deferments at least for the remainder of this fiscal/calendar year.

"I acknowledge the tremendous help our business community extended to affected families after typhoons Soudelor and Yutu with their payment deferments. Payment deferments can help ease the burden on families [that are] already struggling," Blanco said.

Villagomez said she is issuing the budget call to all expenditure authorities to submit their proposed budget and spending plans for fiscal year 2021, in accordance with the governor's constitutional duty to submit a balanced budget proposal to the Legislature.

Pursuant to the Commonwealth Code, the governor's proposed annual budget for fiscal year 2021 must be submitted to the Legislature by April 1, 2020.

In addition, applicants for adjustment of status subject to the public charge ground of inadmissibility and the final rule will be required to submit Form I-944 or Declaration of Self-Sufficiency. This is a new form that was never required before.

Under I-944, applicants are required, among other things, to provide information about their assets, resources, and financial status, as well as the assets, resources, and financial status of all other household members. It used to be that USCIS only asked for the information of the petitioner; the new form now also wants the information of the petitioner's family members.

The applicants and their household members are also required to provide information about credit history, health insurance, list of liabilities and/or debts, credit report and score, education and skills, and public benefits.

On public benefits, the question is asked if the applicants or their household members ever received, or are currently certified to receive in the future public benefits.

The benefits listed are the following:

■ Any federal, state, local or tribal cash assistance for income maintenance;

■ Supplemental Security Income;

■ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families;

■ General Assistance;

■ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP called "food stamps");

■ Section 8 Housing Assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program;

■ Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance (including Moderate Rehabilitation);

■ Public Housing under the Housing Act of 1937;

■ Federally-funded Medicaid.

This new rule is expected to affect many foreign workers in the Commonwealth.

USCIS said certain classes of aliens (such as refugees, asylees, petitioners under the federal Violence Against Women Act, and certain T and U visa applicants) are exempt from the public charge ground of inadmissibility and therefore not subject to the inadmissibility on public charge grounds final rule.

PSS

From Page 1

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada expressed regret that he has to—yet again—notify all PSS staff that there will be salary adjustments that will be applied throughout the organization, and those salary adjustments would also apply to himself, the associate commissioners, directors, principals, and vice principals.

In addition to salary adjustments, his presentation also showed that some positions would be merged, where some of the associate commissioners of PSS will also become directors.

PSS' current budget is set at \$37 million, but due to austerity measures, they only have \$13 million to survive for the next seven months, which means that they can only spend \$1.8 million per month to stay afloat, but Ada said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has promised to give PSS \$2.2 million a month.

According to Ada, the salary changes are needed because of the budget shortfall this school year. He said that PSS doesn't have the sustainability to meet the financial obligation created under the salary compensation plan that was implemented four years ago, nor does it have a contingency plan should the economy face a shortfall. In addition, the changes will have to be main-

tained for the next two years and will overlap with the next fiscal year and beyond, he added.

He said the full Board of Education has already been made aware that this adjustment needs to take place as soon as possible and has already been given a proposal to review before a BOE meeting that will take place on Feb. 27.

Ada emphasized that they will continue to revisit the salaries of teachers, teacher aides, and instructors in their upcoming proposal.

Philip Mendiola-Long, the Tinian representative on the BOE, said the cuts were very difficult to make. He acknowledged that there are strong advocates among the teachers and the administrative staff but, unfortunately, the cash is not there, so they have to make the tough decision and figure out where the cuts could be made.

"...We will continue to look for other alternatives but, at this point, the cuts that are being proposed...is just to get us from payroll to payroll," said Mendiola-Long.

The coronavirus outbreak has prompted four airlines to cancel or suspend flights to the CNMI until further notice. That has resulted in a steep plunge in Commonwealth revenue, which is highly dependent on the entry of tourists. The decline in tourism dollars is having a domino effect on the CNMI government's operations.

MEDICAID

From Page 2

the separation of the Medicaid program from CHCC to prevent conflicts of interest. In 2011, Executive Order 2011-16 was issued to transfer the Medicaid program to the Office of the Governor.

The House Committee on Health found that there is a need to establish the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency. The Legislature finds that the U.S. Congress may require the Commonwealth Medicaid program

to submit data to the "Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System" and establish a Medicaid Fraud Control Unit as a condition to increasing funding for the Medicaid program.

All U.S. states and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have already implemented a "Medicaid Management Information System."

A Medicaid medical claims and clinical data warehouse is seen as a means to enable the monitoring and analysis of health care costs, among other things.

'Austerity measures won't affect NMC students'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College, which lifted austerity measures only last Dec. 3, will

be going back to austerity measures effective March 8 and would include salary deductions in some cases and reduction in work hours of up to 20%.

These austerity measures will not affect class operations, according to interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico.

He said no classes will be canceled and the college will work to ensure that students are not impacted by austerity measures. All classes will run as scheduled, including Friday and Saturday classes.

"We have students who are graduating in three months

and we can't cancel classes now because of austerity measures and delay their goal of earning their college degrees," said Eliptico. "My team and I want to make sure that our students continue on their academic journey because, at the end of the day, their degree is not just a piece of paper, it's an opportunity for a better life."

According to Eliptico, NMC still plans to offer more classes in the summer.

In addition to not cutting classes, NMC is coming up with more ways to raise additional revenue. The college is

also continuing to engage its students despite reduced work hours for employees.

"We are now having to move forward in looking at different strategies and approaches to be able to have a high level of student engagement for our students with these austerity measures," said NMC student leadership coordinator Alexis Cabrera.

One of those events happened yesterday, Feb. 19: a creative writing workshop that focuses on the theme "Home (Is)land" which included a short craft lesson, writing ex-

ercises, and a peer review, in collaboration with University of Guam Press.

One of the programs on campus that will be ramping up activities is the Office of Student Activities and Leadership, which revolves around enhancing the lives of students and includes services such as leadership engagement, and comes up with different initiatives and activities to give students a sense of belonging, campus pride and different tools and resources to ensure that they're successful when they graduate from NMC.

Public warned of dangerous rip currents

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Sunday night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, surf heights of 9 to 11 feet along east facing reefs will maintain dangerous and frequent rip currents through the weekend.

These dangerous and frequent rip currents are oc-

curing in east facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan through Sunday night. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Strong rip currents will be life threatening along east facing reefs. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. Swim out of a rip current by swimming parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. (PR)

Toys for Tots hands out total of 5K toys in NMI

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The U.S. Marine Corps program Toys for Tots managed to amass a total of 11,000 toys in both Guam and the CNMI last December. Of that number, a total of 5,000 toys were distributed in the CNMI. The wild success of the program was recognized at the recent Saipan of Chamber general membership meeting, during which the U.S. Marine Corps thanked businesses and community partners in the CNMI for making it a tremendous success.

"...On Tinian and Rota, we partnered with the mayors and on Rota, every single kid received two toys this year which is a big deal because there's no toy store on Rota," said U.S. Marine Corps communications strategy and operations officer Capt. Brett Lazaroff.

"We really cannot do the program without the businesses and all the places that we have toy collection spots. All these local businesses that have become Toys for Tots partners through the Chamber helped us collect toys at their location," he added.

Toys for Tots has been spreading cheer in the CNMI each Christmas for the last four years and it has been part-

nering with the Saipan Young Professionals, a committee under the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, on this project. The decision to bring the toys program to the CNMI was made soon after a Marine Corps mission on Saipan following the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor in 2015.

Lazaroff said that their partners in the CNMI have been committed to promoting toy contributions and raising awareness about the program. "The community feeds into the program and it really just benefits every child that we can reach so everyone can really get a toy at Christmas and get that holiday spirit..." he added.

"The Saipan Young Professionals and the Chamber are our partners leading the local initiative. ...It is really a lot of hard work and coordination. The work of our distribution partners like [Karidat Social Services] and Salvation Army are of equal importance," he added.

For 2020, Lazaroff said that one of their goals is to collect more toys and reach more children. "The more joy we give, the more the Christmas spirit is felt in every home. ...Like every year, we plan to start again in October and distribute toys right before Christmas."



BEA CABRERA

Elina Gharti Chhetri of Marianas Creations receives a certificate of appreciation for being one of the businesses on Saipan that partnered with Toys for Tots 2019.

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**PROJECT PROA**

Rota students who are part of the Project PROA program at the Northern Marianas College recently met with NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, NMC regent Elaine Orilla, and NMC Rota Campus executive director Martin Mendiola during a recent gathering on the NMC Rota Campus. Project PROA is a federally funded program that offers tutoring, mentoring, and advising to NMC students. For more information, visit www.marianas.edu.nmc

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
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AND PATHWAYS IN TINIAN FOR
THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR.EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA E-MAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 24, 2020.**

A **MANDATORY SITE VISIT AND PRE-BID MEETING** IS SCHEDULED ON **FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN CONFERENCE ROOM IN TINIAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP20-OGM-053**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**“CNMI STRATEGIC ENERGY PLAN
UPDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF
GRANTS MANAGEMENT”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR.EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA E-MAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 26, 2020.**

A **PRE-PROPOSAL** IS SCHEDULED ON **FEBRUARY 24, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Bar assoc. backs birthright citizenship in US territories

The American Bar Association's House of Delegates passed a resolution Monday supporting an interpretation of the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitu-

**Weare**

tion that recognizes all persons born in the territories as natural-born citizens of the United States.

The ABA resolution follows December's historic ruling in *Fitisemanu v. United States*, which recognized for the first time that people born in U.S. territories have a constitutional right to be recognized as citizens—one that cannot be switched on or off by Congress. Earlier this month, the United States and American Samoa had appealed the *Fitisemanu* decision to the 10th Circuit.

“The ABA is perhaps the most prominent association of lawyers in the United States, so it's a big deal to have them adopt a resolution echoing the district court's decision in *Fitisemanu*. I greatly appreciate the work of the Virgin Islands Bar Association to bring these territorial issues to the highest level,” said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights for the nearly 4 million residents of U.S. territories. “The resolution is also important in recognizing that the issue of citizenship is separate and apart from issues of cultural preservation in American Samoa or other territories.”

The resolution was introduced by the Virgin Islands Bar Association. VI Bar president Nesha R. Christian-Hendrickson stated following passage of the ABA resolution: “I am pleased that the ABA has now recognized that those born in U.S. territories are equally American have the same right to citizenship as anyone born on U.S. soil. It is our fervent hope that the U.S. government will arrive at this position in the near future.”

The U.S. Virgin Islands ABA delegate, Anthony Cioilli, past-president of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, spoke in support of the resolution, which was approved unani-

mously by the House of Delegates. He explained the need for the resolution in light of the recent appeal by the United States, explaining “[t]he government justifies its position that those born in United States territories are not natural-born citizens under the Citizenship Clause on the Insular Cases, a series of decisions rendered more than a century ago which denied certain constitutional rights to residents of America's insular territories based on conceptions of racial inferiority.”

The ABA is the largest voluntary association of lawyers in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.

The full text of the resolution as approved states:

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports an interpretation of the Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution that recognizes all persons born in the territories, possessions, and commonwealths of the United States, and who are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as natural-born citizens of the United States; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That nothing in this Resolution should be construed to infringe on the cultural sovereignty of any United States territory, including the matai system in American Samoa. **(PR)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP20-OGM-054**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“AQUAPONICS PROGRAM PHOTOVOLTIC
SYSTEM (ROTA) FOR THE OFFICE
OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR.EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA E-MAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 28, 2020.**

A **MANDATORY SITE VISIT AND PRE-BID MEETING** IS SCHEDULED ON **FEBRUARY 27, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROTA CONFERENCE ROOM, SINAPALO (ROTA).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP20-OGM-059**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 18, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**“STANDALONE PHOTOVOLTIC LIGHT SYSTEM
FOR THE COCONUT RHINO (CRB) PROGRAM FOR
ROTA FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT
& STATE CLEARING HOUSE”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **MANDATORY PROJECT SITE VISIT & PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING** IS SCHEDULED ON **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 03, 2020** AT THE ROTA-DLNR CONFERENCE ROOM (ON ROTA).

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR.EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA E-MAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., MARCH 05, 2020.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Come
& Be
Blessed!

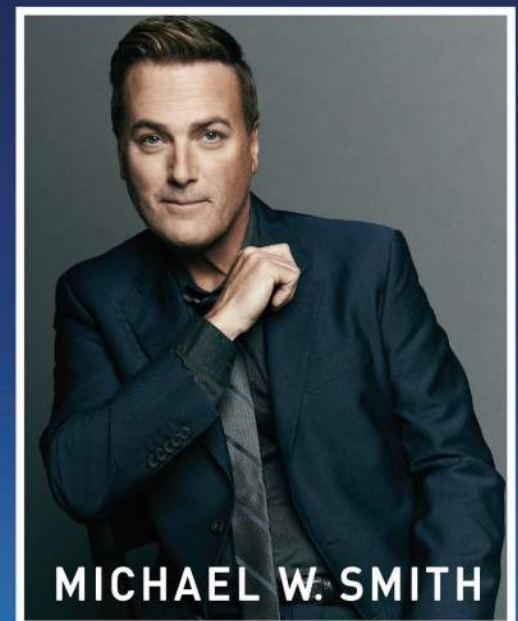


MARIANAS FESTIVAL of HOPE

with
Franklin Graham

Friday, February 21, 2020
American Memorial Park Saipan
Gates open at 5:30pm

Special Guests:



MICHAEL W. SMITH

3-time Grammy award winner, multi-platinum artist, best-selling author, acclaimed actor and contemporary Christian music artist



TOMMY COOMES BAND



DENNIS AGAJANIAN



MARGARITA "ITS" WAHIMAN

in partnership with the

**BILLY
GRAHAM**
Evangelistic Association
Always Good News.

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✉ mfhfg.mp@gmail.com

📺 MFHFG

SIS plays host to Korean students

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan International

School continues with its “Welcome to the Marianas” program this month as it plays host to exchange students

from South Korea who are in the Kindergarten to 6th grade. Through hands-on activities, guest speakers, and field

trips, the Korean students are learning more about the Marianas, in addition to their regular units of study. SIS has been hosting the students since January to enhance their knowledge of the history, ge-

ography, and culture of the islands. Among the things that they have learned are plate tectonics, the “Ring of Fire,” and how the Marianas Trench and the Mariana Islands were formed, the history of the Chamorro people and more.

The students have also participated in several cooking activities, taste-testing, and the upper elementary students learned how to dance the traditional fire dance. Students also learned about the native wildlife on the islands and how to preserve the diversity of species that call Saipan home. The CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management taught the students about coral reefs, their history and formation, and the work that is being done to preserve them for future generations.

Last January, SIS scheduled field trips for the students to the NMI Museum, where they learned about the various histories of the islands—the Chamorro and Carolinians, the Spanish period, the German period, the Japanese period, the United Nations period, and the modern history when the CNMI became a U.S. territory. The students also visited Sugar King Park, where they learned about the history of the sugar cane industry on the islands.

SIS also had a mid-year Sports Day at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe. The students, along with exchange students, competed side-by-side on physical abilities and endurance in 12 different events. SIS ended January with a full-day celebration at Micro Beach.



Miss Marianas 2019 Shannon Tudela Sasamoto poses with Saipan International School students after reading to the students about mental health as part of the “World Read Aloud Day” at SIS in As Lito last Feb. 10.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Annual MIFICPA tax seminar set

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will be hosting this year’s tax seminar on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, from 8am to 12pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Registration starts at 7:30am. This seminar is open to all, including non-accountants.

The seminar will be conducted by David J. Burger, managing partner of Burger, Comer & Magliari.

As part of a new board resolution, all current members/new applicants shall be required to submit the following: filled up membership form; diploma/certification that you finished an accounting course; certificate of membership shall be issued upon request.

MIFICPA will be having a fundraising for the Taal Volcano victims by selling the 25th Anniversary MIFICPA T-shirts and souvenir program for \$5 each until supplies last. Also, it will be placing a donation box during the seminar for those who would like to donate. It will later be turned over to the office of Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio “Eli” Arago after the seminar.

For reservation and more details, details, email: Angie Mamaril (angiemamaril@yahoo.com); Noemi Catigan (noemi_catigan@fiestasaipan.com); Deo Manese (djmanese@gmail.com); Paul Sanial (paulangelosaniel@hotmail.com); Ronnel Calma (rzcalma@jzgroupinc.com); Jimacla Ham (jvham888@

gmail.com); or Ana Hilario (ana.hilario@itechq.net) (PR)

500 Sails offers free swim classes to women in February and March

In partnership with Commonwealth Women’s Association, 500 Sails is offering free swim classes for women and girls 12 and older through the Sirena Project. Below are the newly announced March dates, including two Fridays.

Saturdays this February and March 2020, plus on March 20 and March 27. All classes are from 10am to 11am at Guma Sakman; all levels welcome. Bring a water bottle, swim clothes, a towel, and a friend.

For more information: email info@500sails.org, visit website at www.500sails.org, follow www.facebook.com/500SailsDolphinClubSaipan, or call Emma Perez at 670-285-4268. (PR)

Teen poetry slam competition invites youth

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence will be hosting Teen Poetry Slam 2020 on Feb. 28, starting at 6pm, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

This event is intended to raise awareness during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February 2020 and is open to ages 13 to 19. To participate, sign up by Feb. 19, 2020.

Those ages 13-19 are invited to perform their original poetry. Those interested in competing must submit their poems and contact information for review to info@EndViolenceNMI.org before or by 11:59pm on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020.

Poem submissions must include the contestant’s full name, age, name of school, and contact number(s). Submissions may be sent within the body of the email, as a Word document, or as a PDF to info@EndViolenceNMI.org. For more information, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-3878 or email info@EndViolenceNMI.org. (PR)

E-File & Serve having technical glitches

The CNMI Judiciary’s electronic filing system, E-File & Serve, is currently experiencing technical difficulties. Until further notice, all persons seeking to file and serve with either the Supreme Court or the Superior Court must file and serve in accordance with the Commonwealth Rules of Practice and the Commonwealth Rules for Electronic Filing and Service. For more information, contact the following individuals: Gretchen A. Smith, Clerk of Court, CNMI Supreme Court, at (670) 236-9715 or email gretchen.smith@nmijudiciary.com; or Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court at (670) 235-5248 or email patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Friday, February 21, 2020 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (01/22/20)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson’s Report
 - A. Introduction of new Legal Counsel – Robert Glass (Robby)
- VII. Director’s Report
- VIII. Investigator’s Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor’s Office
 1. DIRECTIVE – Implementation of Austerity Measures
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
 - A. Update on Pending Case (N. Krum) – Legal Counsel
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board’s Review
 - A. New Applications
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB20-HSEM-058

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 02, 2020

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE, DELIVERY, & INSTALLATION OF CNMI ALL HAZARDS MASS WARNING ALERT AT THREE (3) PRE-IDENTIFIED SITES ON SAIPAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

MANDATORY PRE-BID & SITE TOUR IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2020 AT 08:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME. ALL INTERESTED BIDDERS SHALL MEET WITH MR. JAMES RABULIMAN & MR. JONATHAN VILLAGOMEZ AT THE OFFICE OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CENTER LOCATED IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

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/s/ GERALD J. DELOEN GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, HSEM

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

) Civil Case
IN THE MATTER) No. 19-0236C
OF THE ESTATE OF) **SECOND AMENDED**
JUAN SANTOS) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
BLAS,) **ON PETITION FOR**
Deceased.) **LETTERS OF**
) **ADMINISTRATION**
) **and NOTICE TO**
) **CREDITORS**

**TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISES, LEGATEES
AND CREDITORS OF: JUAN
SANTOS BLAS, DECEASED**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of BENNY LYN C. CAMACHO for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 5th day of March, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Benny Lynn C. Camacho, PMB 204 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 785-8820 / 670-256-1623.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, JUAN SANTOS BLAS, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2020
Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

) Civil Case
IN THE MATTER) No. 19-0237C
OF THE ESTATE OF) **SECOND AMENDED**
PEDRO) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
SANTOS BLAS,) **ON PETITION FOR**
Deceased.) **LETTERS OF**
) **ADMINISTRATION**
) **and NOTICE TO**
) **CREDITORS**

**TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISES, LEGATEES
AND CREDITORS OF: PEDRO
SANTOS BLAS, DECEASED**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of BENNY LYN C. CAMACHO for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 5th day of March, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Benny Lynn C. Camacho, PMB 204 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 785-8820 / 670-256-1623.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, PEDRO SANTOS BLAS, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2020.
Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COPE NORTH 20

U.S. NAVY/MCS1 OMAR POWELL

Members of the U.S. military, Royal Australian Air Force, and Japan Air Self-Defense Force cut into a runway with their compact track Caterpillars during the Exercise Cope North 20 at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam last Feb. 13, 2020. CN20 is an annual trilateral field training exercise conducted at Andersen AFB, and around the CNMI, Palau, and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia.



Six high schools to compete in mock trial

Six high schools will be competing on Feb. 27 and 28 for the opportunity to represent the CNMI at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Evansville, Indiana in May.

The CNMI-wide competition will be held at the U.S. District Court for the NMI. Schools represented include Grace Christian Academy, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High School, Saipan

International School, and Tinian High School.

"We are grateful to the U.S. District Court for accommodating the mock trial competition and providing the venue once again," said mock trial coordinator Gretchen A. Smith. "I am excited for this year's competition. The topic resonates with issues facing the nation today."

This year's problem concerns an excessive force claim by a police officer against a minor in *Gabriel Johnson Torres v. Department of Public Safety*. The fact pattern presents an officer entering a classroom and requesting the minor

to hand over his backpack. In doing so, the officer pepper sprays the minor and subsequently brings the minor to the principal's office. Prior to this, the officer received a report from another student that he had seen the minor with a gun.

Marianas High School represented the CNMI at the national competition in Athens, Georgia, last May 16-18, 2019. Emma Timmons received an award for outstanding attorney; only 10 from the nation receive the award.

The mock trial program, now in its 22nd year, is sponsored by the CNMI Judiciary, the CNMI Public School

System, the CNMI Bar Association and the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society. The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has also provided funding for the local competition.

For more information, contact Smith at nmimocktrial@gmail.com. **(PR)**



Lions Club to host first walkathon

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will be hosting its first walkathon called "A Walk with a Cancer Survivor" on April 18 at 5pm at the Oleai Track and Field.

The club want to show its support for not only those who have been or are fighting cancer but to also remind survivors that they are not alone in their battle.

The walkathon will involve an after-work walk at 5:30pm at the track and field of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe so that everyone can be included, even children.

As part of efforts to promote health and fitness for all ages, the Saipan Alliance Lions Clubs have been hosting its annual Zumballiance, in collaboration with the Division of Public Health's Cervical Cancer Prevention Program.

If you wish to participate or be a sponsor, contact president Eden Mercado at (670)788-2416, Milagros Pellegrino at (670) 287-8310, Socorro Hulganga at (670)989-6407, or secretary Mario Mayuga at (670)285-1021. For more details about Lions Clubs International visit www.lionsclubs.org. **(Justine Nauta)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-CDA-060**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 16, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE (SUV) FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CDA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DLNR/DFW-055**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 04, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

NEW RIDING MOWER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE UNDER SMILING COVE MARINA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-010

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-010, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 6, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. The Bid bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org, Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Boy Scouts failed to heed the Catholic Church's lesson and confront abuse

Boy Scouts of America has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to protect the organization and its multibillion-dollar assets from seizure amid hundreds of sexual abuse lawsuits. A once-venerable institution, credited by generations of business and military leaders with grounding them in the fundamentals for success in life, finds itself in the same kind of crisis of trust facing the Catholic Church.

The Boy Scouts knew of the problem—it even kept a secret “perversion file” to internally track molestation allegations against scoutmasters—but didn’t take forceful action when abuse cases surfaced. In covering up the problem rather than dealing with it, the organization may have sealed its own fate. Its insurers are threatening not to cover losses from these lawsuits.

America’s largest youth organization was founded in 1910 to promote character, citizenship and self-reliance. Americans who have credited scouting with influencing their lives include Martin Luther King Jr., astronaut Neil Armstrong, basketball great Michael Jordan, filmmaker Steven Spielberg and many U.S. military and political leaders, including several presidents.

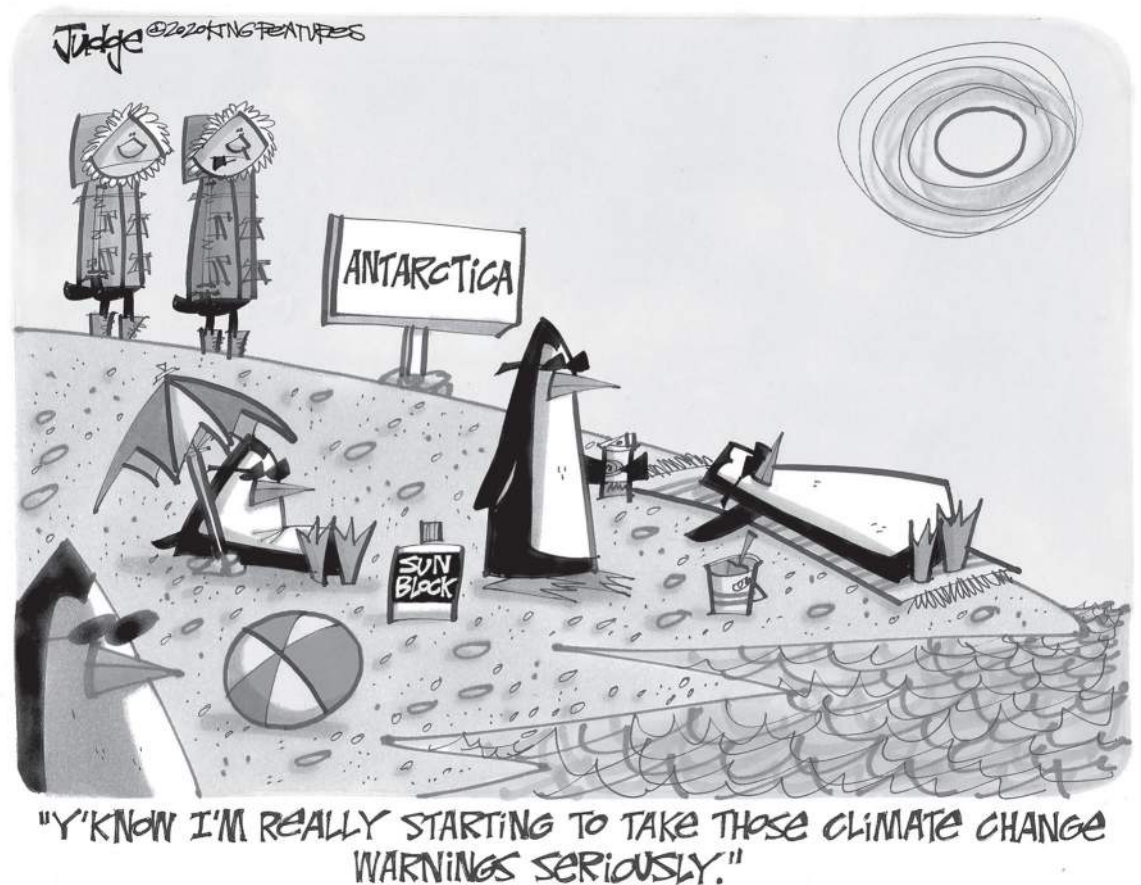
But behind the merit badges and camping trips, a darker legacy grew. Some 300 men claim in pending lawsuits that they were sexually abused as boys by scoutmasters or volunteers. Their stories are being told only now because many states have overhauled their laws to give sexual abuse victims more time to report their abuse, unleashing a wave of lawsuits previously prevented by statutes of limitation.

They’re likely the tip of the iceberg, given that the organization has been aware for at least half a century that it had an abuse problem. Boy Scouts of America maintained “perversion files”—a trove of 14,000 documents dating back to the 1960s—that were finally opened by a court in 2012. The files exposed decades of sexual abuse cover-ups not only by scouting officials but police, prosecutors and pastors. The cover-up was aimed at protecting the good name of a storied organization that should instead have been protecting the kids.

By filing for bankruptcy, the Boy Scouts will effectively freeze the pending lawsuits in place, which could end up being either cynically self-serving or responsibly constructive, depending on what happens next. The organization says it plans to set up a compensation fund for victims. A recent open letter to those victims, offering apologies and encouraging them to come forward, is a far better approach than the denial and evasion of the past.

It should have come much earlier, given the glaring example the Catholic Church has provided for many years of how not to handle sexual abuse in its ranks. The organization whose motto is “Be prepared” let its own problem fester because officials weren’t prepared to confront it. Faced now with an existential crisis, Boy Scouts of America should show the character it has long preached and right these wrongs.

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It's tough being a Democratic voter if you're not a clairvoyant

If this were a normal presidential election, most Democrats would have decided by now whom they would vote for in the primaries. They simply would have weighed each candidate's message and decided which aligned most closely with their own.

That's how easy the political process is supposed to be. But this is no ordinary election. It never is when Donald Trump is involved.

This time around, Democrats are facing an extraordinary challenge. They will have to become clairvoyants. They must try to look into the future to Nov. 3 and decide who most likely would be giving a victory speech, Trump or his Democratic challenger.

Not only must they decide which candidate out of the large field of contenders they like, but also which candidate the majority of Americans might like in the general election. With so much at stake, Democrats can't afford to end up choosing someone who isn't strong enough to stop Trump from getting a second term.

They will have to gaze into a crystal ball that is both cloudy and unreliable and try to determine which candidate has the most firepower, charisma and bankroll to make it all the way to the White House.

They must envision what turnout might look like for one candidate, as opposed to another. In choosing the best possible nominee, many are willing to forfeit the right to vote for the candidate who is personally appealing to them and think rather about how that candidate might resonate with others.

Caucusgoers in Iowa had to sort through democratic socialist talk about “Medicare for All” and figure out how it might play among those moderate northwest Iowa voters who supported Obama in 2012 and switched to Trump in 2016. They struggled with choosing a progressive over a centrist, as no clear winner emerged.

People who never have had an unpleasant experience with police must figure out if a candidate's history with stop and frisk or police brutality might turn off African American voters in Philadelphia, Cleveland and Detroit. These urban voters could determine the outcome in three battleground states.

Those who abhor homophobia and sexism must consider whether having a woman at the head of the ticket or a gay man could bring out the bigoted or misogynistic fears in more conservative, rural Democrats, prompting them to stay home.

Voters are being asked to weigh whether experience even matters in this election and whether a candidate is too young or too old. They must try to figure out who young voters would likely default to if their candidate fails, and who black voters might line up behind if the person they are most comfortable with bows out.

Gone are the days when a Democrat could go into the voting booth without worrying about what the Democrat next to them is doing in theirs. In the old days, whoever emerged victorious

By DAHLEEN GLANTON

Chicago Tribune

Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



at the end of the night likely would be a candidate most of them could live with. This time, too much is at stake to get it wrong.

It is a daunting task that many Democrats find overly stressful. Frankly, it also is a task that is impossible to accomplish. Only a psychic, someone with the ability to look into the future, could figure out which of these candidates would appeal to a diverse swath of voters with different viewpoints and opposing interests.

Perhaps no single one of the candidates can.

Increasingly, it's becoming tougher to choose a consensus candidate. That's because the Democratic Party is so fractured. There clearly are two powerful and headstrong Democratic entities in play now—the centrists and the progressives. And they're out to tear each other down.

While the Republican and Democratic parties always have been comprised of opposing interests, Democrats have not had to deal with it so blatantly since the party split over civil rights issues in 1948.

Southern Democrats split from the party rather than support President Harry Truman's pro-civil rights agenda. This is a bad time for Democrats to repeat history.

While most Democrats are resigned to support whoever ends up on the ballot in November, not everyone is committed. Only about half of Bernie Sanders' supporters say they will vote for the Democratic nominee in the general election if it isn't Sanders, according to polls.

The greatest risk to Democrats in 2020 is apathy. This is one election where the vote of every Democrat, independent and moderate Republican is needed to hand Trump a resounding defeat. Democrats can't afford to select an opponent who is so unappealing that any group of voters might choose to sit this one out.

Four years ago, 43% of eligible voters—roughly 100 million people—stayed home, according to the U.S. Elections Project. That would be another bonus for Trump.

Democrats cannot afford to mess this up. The free world is depending on them to get rid of Trump and bring back sanity and reason. Our democracy depends on it too.

Voting from one's heart in the primaries is not an option. This time, it has to come from the brain.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

By RICH LOWRY

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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Mike Bloomberg's offensive campaign

The rich are different from you and me—they can buy themselves instant presidential campaigns.

Former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg has elbowed himself into the Democratic nomination race solely on the basis of his fortune.

His campaign is high-handed as only a billionaire many times over could even contemplate. He entered late, is skipping the early contests and hasn't participated in any of the debates to date (although that will change soon, thanks to the Democratic National Committee retrofitting its rules for Bloomberg).

It's a free country, and with more than \$50 billion to his name, Bloomberg can spend as much money as he likes on whatever suits his fancy. But Bloomberg 2020 is still an affront to small-d democratic sensibilities, a tribute not to his superior political skills or messaging compared with the other candidates, but to his access to an enormous personal bank account.

The level of his spending is truly astonishing—Croesus goes all-in on Super Tuesday. Bloomberg spent more than \$300 million on various forms of advertising. He's single-handedly changed the market for TV ads in many places. He spent \$10 million on a Super Bowl spot, or about half of what Joe Biden raised in the entire fourth quarter.

This is the Bloomberg way. He spent a quarter of a billion dollars to become and stay New York mayor for three terms. He was eligible for his third term only because he got a term-limit law changed, with the support of charities that he happened to make generous donations to.

What's wrong with all this, beyond the cynicism of thinking everything has a price tag? Maybe Bloomberg is right, that trying to go in and convince voters of your appeal at town hall events and meet-and-greets in places like Iowa and New Hampshire is for suckers.

But there is much to be said for grassroots politics. It forces candidates to take account, up close and personal, of what their voters believe and want. As president, Abraham Lincoln devoted serious time to meeting with random people who showed up to see him, in what he called "public opinion baths."

The candidate who does countless of these early-state events must have the ability to inspire and impress, think on his feet, show endless patience and stamina. If he's not up for it, or is a pretender, he will inevitably be exposed.

In comparison to the other candidates, Bloomberg is a Wizard of Oz candidate, shielded and inflated by his TV ads.

Another advantage of the traditional approach is that anyone can do it. Pete Buttigieg, the unknown mayor of a small Indiana town, finished strong in Iowa through sheer talent, tireless work and clever messaging.

All this said, perhaps Bloomberg will break all the rules and be the last man standing between Bernie Sanders and the cusp of the American presidency. Then, his spending might look to a lot of Democrats like a public service. There is also no denying that Bloomberg is a genuinely talented man.

Yet this style of campaigning shouldn't be the norm. If Bloomberg succeeds, he will enrich many TV stations, consultants, pollsters and campaign workers, but impoverish our politics.

What exactly is in the details of the Taliban truce?

In the last year, Congress has begun to claw back its constitutional power to declare war. A possible U.S. truce with the Taliban will show whether the legislative branch is willing to reassert its peace-making power as well.

The latest example of Congress's renewed interest in its war-making authority is its 55 to 45 vote last week in the Senate limiting the president's ability to attack Iran unless he gets explicit authorization from Congress. This followed a vote last year to end U.S. military participation in the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

These votes are important correctives to decades of Congress abdicating its war-making power to presidents of both parties. News that the U.S. and the Taliban are close to reaching a seven-day truce and a possible agreement for the withdrawal of most forces from Afghanistan presents an opening for Congress to exert some control over the peace process—which in this case amounts to a dangerous foreign policy.

The first step is not necessarily asserting the Senate's right to approve an eventual peace treaty. Rather, it is to gain access to the entire agreement that is now being negotiated in Doha between U.S. Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and representatives of the Taliban.

According to Time magazine, that final agreement will contain several secret annexes. Usually, such appendices are ancillary to the primary agreement. In this case, they are the most important elements.

The article says that one annex will lay out the terms for how U.S. counterterrorism forces can remain in Afghanistan to hold back al-Qaida and other jihadist groups. One, according to the magazine, will contain the Taliban's "denouncement of terrorism and violent extremism." Another annex will contain the mechanism for monitoring how all sides in the war are adhering to the ceasefire while negotiations proceed between the Taliban and the elected Afghan government.

All of these are vitally important for the eventual truce to be a real peace agreement instead of simply terms of surrender for the

By ELI LAKE

Bloomberg News

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.



Afghan government. The most crucial element, however, will be whether the Taliban itself will commit to severing its longstanding ties to al-Qaida.

Recent evidence suggests that it is not ready. In September, for example, U.S. and Afghan forces reportedly killed a senior al-Qaida member during a raid in Taliban-controlled Helmand Province. Last month, Long War Journal reported that the Pentagon spiked a press release announcing the death because "it would complicate future negotiations with the Taliban."

"You can't pretend the Taliban is willing to break with al-Qaida when they are still deeply in bed with one another," says Tom Joscelyn, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and senior editor of the Long War Journal. His point raises a larger question: If the provisions of the agreement that require the Taliban to break with terrorism are not public, then how much are they really worth?

Here is where Congress can reclaim its oversight function. At the very least, representatives and senators can give the American people an honest assessment of any truce with the Taliban.

It may well be that most Americans are willing to live with an unconditional withdrawal from a war the U.S. has waged for 18 years with little to show for it. If that is the case, however, then Congress should say so. Surrender camouflaged as peace is little more than an ignoble lie.

Did Pope Francis acquiesce to conservatives on married priests? Sure looks like it

Conservative Catholics, including some critics of Pope Francis, are doing a victory lap because the pope has not, as expected, endorsed the ordination of married men as priests in the Amazon region of South America.

At a Vatican synod it in October, two-thirds of bishops from that area had supported an exception to Western Catholicism's celibacy requirement to deal with a severe shortage of priests.

The pope had been expected to endorse that idea. But he declined to do so after a firestorm that included the publication of a pro-celibacy book, "From the Depths of our Hearts," that originally listed Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as a co-author. (The principal author of the book is Cardinal Robert Sarah, a prominent church conservative, but Benedict did contribute some reflections.)

In an "apostolic exhortation" about the Amazon made public Wednesday, Francis didn't announce a change in the celibacy rule for that region. Instead he suggested other ways to deal with the priest shortage such as encouraging bishops in other countries to encourage missionaries to "opt for the Amazon region."

The pope's decision is rightly being described as a victory for conservatives who cherish the celibacy rule. But it may have broader and more ominous implications, not just for Catholics of the so-called Eastern-rite churches, in which married men may be ordained priests, but for the prospects of reunion between Rome and Eastern Orthodox churches.

As I explained here, there are already married Catholic priests. Most minister in the Eastern rites, which share traditions, liturgy and theology with ancient churches such as the Eastern Orthodox that don't recognize the pope. But there are also Catholic priests who were previously Anglican, Episcopal or Lutheran clergy who were allowed to be ordained Catholic priests even though they were married. (Ironically, it was Benedict XVI who in a 2009 decree paved the way for large-scale ordination of married former Anglican clergymen.)

The Vatican's acceptance of married priests in Eastern-rite churches has been grudging at times. In the early 20th century, it prohibited those churches from ordaining married men in North America, South America and Australia, a concession to Roman Catholic bishops in those places who were worried that their faithful would be scandalized by the presence of married Catholic

By MICHAEL MCGOUGH

Los Angeles Times

Michael McGough is the Los Angeles Times' senior editorial writer, based in Washington, D.C.



priests in their midst. That prohibition was lifted only in 2014.

Granted, Francis' decision not to create a new exception to the celibacy rule preserves the status quo. But coming after the controversy over the retired Pope Benedict's contribution to "From the Depths of our Hearts," it might be seen as a retreat from the Roman Catholic Church's position that its celibacy requirement is a matter of discipline, not doctrine.






That's because excerpts from Benedict's contribution to the book suggest that the retired pope sees an absolute incompatibility between priesthood and the married life. Benedict wrote: "From the daily celebration of the Eucharist, which implies a permanent state of service to God, was born spontaneously the impossibility of a marital bond."

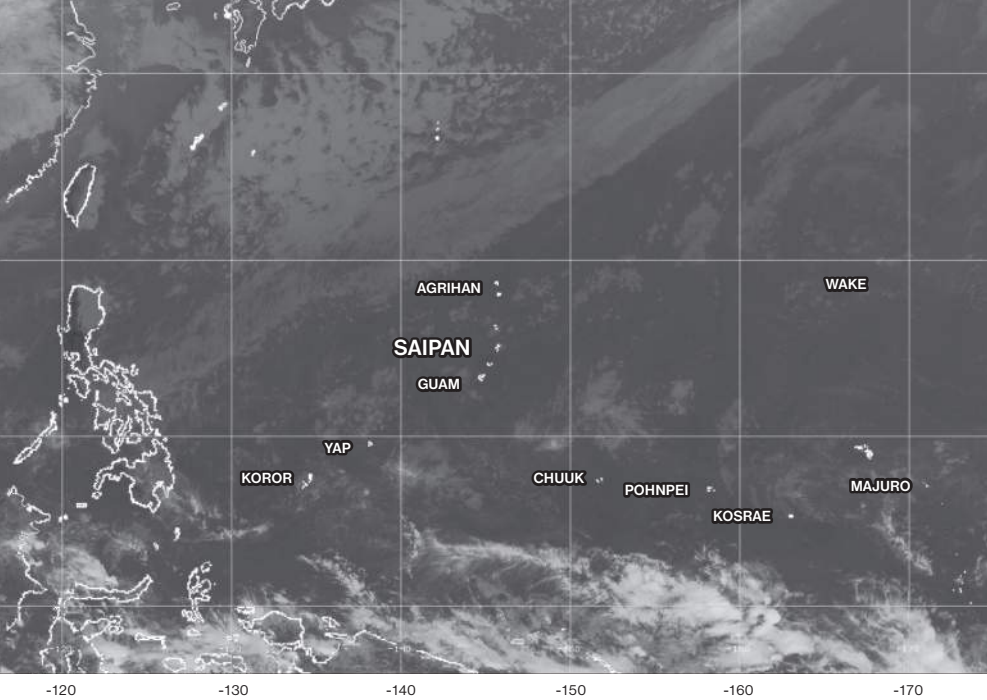
To say that it's impossible for priests to be married seems to elevate the ban on celibacy to the status of doctrine, calling into question the legitimacy of the vocations of married clergy who already minister in the Catholic Church. On Thursday the Washington Post charmingly profiled one such priest, a cleric in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. "Married priests are not above the folks," the Rev. Oleh Kindiy told the Post. "My wife is friends with the parishioners. My kids are growing up with parishioners' kids."

Especially in light of Benedict's intervention, Francis' refusal to relax the celibacy rule for the Amazon also sends a discouraging signal to the Eastern churches not in communion with the pope—that reunion with Rome could render their married priests second-class clergy.

I'm sure the pope didn't intend to demean the ministry of married priests—Catholic and non-Catholic—with this decision. But it could have that effect.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers. East to northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	75°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:05 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows a line of showers moving through the Mariana Islands at this time. Otherwise, isolated showers are moving through. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet at this time, composed of east-northeast trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Windy	84° / 76°			
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°			
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86° / 80°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Windy	86° / 80°			
Kosrae	Windy	86° / 80°			
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 66°			
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	52° / 28°			
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°			
Honolulu	Windy	80° / 69°			
London	Rain	52° / 37°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 52°			
Manila	Mostly Sunny	86° / 75°			
Melbourne	Showers	63° / 54°			
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 67°			
New York	Partly Cloudy	37° / 22°			
Osaka	Sunny	59° / 43°			
Paris	Cloudy	54° / 37°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°			
Rome	Sunny	63° / 39°			
Salem	Rain	47° / 38°			
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 47°			
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	48° / 27°			
Tokyo	Sunny	57° / 45°			
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 24°			



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
7:03 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.60
12:20 PM	LOW TIDE		1.06
5:02 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.58
-	-		-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:00 AM	3:30 PM	-
Friday	4:50 AM	4:23 PM	-
Saturday	5:37 AM	5:15 PM	-
Sunday	6:21 AM	6:06 PM	-
Monday	7:01 AM	6:54 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

BISTRO Marianas brings new business to Chalan Piao

By BEA CABRERA
beacabbiesaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Bistro Marianas Restaurant and Bar opened its doors earlier this month inside the Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel.

Owner Reynaldo Faustino said close friends urged him to open a new restaurant in the area that would serve good food at affordable prices with a relaxing venue.

"Bistro Marianas is a product of our perseverance to expand our business. Since we have a lot of local residents who patronize and trust us for our food offerings

and service from another business (Bitoy's BBQ), we hope that we can serve them more with Bistro Marianas," he said.

"We have everything you can ask for—good ambiance by the beach, clean facilities, and good service. We will try to be as accommodating as possible to the needs of our customers. We have local and western-style kinds of dishes which are the popular meals among local residents," he added.

Breakfast is *a la carte* style of menu that includes omelettes, breakfast combos like Portuguese sausage, Spam, bacon, corned beef, beef tapa, and pork longanisa all paired



Bistro Marianas Restaurant and Bar owner Reynaldo Faustino is happy to be serving the Saipan community through a new food business.

with fried egg and fried rice.

Lunch offers *a la carte* special lunch menu that is different every day and a variety of dishes one can choose from. Single choice is only \$4.50, two choices is only \$5.50, and three choices is only \$6.50.

Soon, Bistro Marianas will be open for happy hour and dinner. "For happy hour, we will be serving appetizers that goes well with beer or cocktail drinks like sisig and barbecue. We also plan to put

For more information, call (670) 482-2370 or look them up on FaceBook: Bistro Marianas Restaurant and Bar



BEA CABRERA

Aside from the affordable and delicious food offerings, Bistro Marianas Restaurant and Bar is proud to have clean facilities and peaceful ambiance.

China turns to internet for food supplies amid virus fears

BEIJING (AP)—Wang Feng, house-bound by China's virus outbreak, counts on the parka-clad delivery drivers of e-commerce giant JD.com to keep her kitchen stocked.

Demand for online food vendors has surged since China's government told the public to stay home as part of the most sweeping anti-disease controls ever imposed.

On Tuesday, Wang's phone buzzed with a text message that a delivery had arrived. The retiree bundled up against the winter cold, put on a face mask and emerged from her apartment complex to collect walnut milk and other goods from shelves on the sidewalk — an anti-virus measure to limit contact with drivers who normally go door to door.

"They work really hard, and it's dangerous," said Wang. "Without their services, we would not be able to survive at all."

JD.com Inc. and rivals including Pinduoduo, Missfresh Inc. and Alibaba Group's Hema are scrambling to fill a boom in orders while trying to protect their employees.

E-commerce is one of the few industries to thrive after anti-virus controls starting in late January closed factories, restaurants, cinemas, offices and shops nationwide and extinguished auto and real estate sales.

The government is trying to revive economic activity but has told anyone who can work from home to stay there. Some cities have imposed controls that allow only one member of a family out each day. That creates a ready market for online entertainment and shopping.

"I can't go out and can't go to work," said one of Wang's neighbors, Chen Guang, who was picking up a box of vegetables from the sidewalk shelves under a sign that said, "Contactless Distribution Point."

Chen, who wore an entry pass for his apartment complex around his neck, said he shops online two to three times a week to replenish kitchen supplies.

JD says over the past month, its drivers delivered 71,500 tons of rice, flour and other grains — 20 times more than the same period last year, — 27 million liters of

cooking oil and 50,000 tons of meat, eggs, vegetables and other fresh products.

Pinduoduo said orders for apples, strawberries and other fresh fruit from its 586,000 sellers of agricultural products were up 120% in January.

Disease fears in other Asian markets also have propelled e-commerce demand for food and hygiene supplies. The Korea Economic Daily said online mask sales in South Korea rose 37,000% in January over a year earlier.

Chinese e-commerce companies emerged in a market that lacked credit cards, reliable delivery and other features their counterparts in the United States and Europe take for granted. That required JD, Alibaba and some other competitors to create their own online payments systems or networks of warehouses and delivery drivers.

JD has a 180,000-strong workforce of drivers and warehouse workers and says it is hiring 20,000 more to meet demand. The company said Dada Group, a delivery service in which JD is an investor, is adding 15,000 to its workforce.

Pier 1 files for bankruptcy protection amid online challenge

Pier 1 Imports Inc.—the once-trendy supplier of home goods like papasan chairs and throw pillows—filed for bankruptcy protection Monday after years of sliding sales.

The Fort Worth, Texas-based company has been struggling with increased competition from budget-friendly online retailers like Wayfair and Amazon and discount stores like Home Goods. In a 2018 presentation to investors, the company acknowledged that shoppers thought its merchandise was outdated and expensive. It was also burdened by high sourcing and supply chain costs.

Pier 1 said it will pursue a sale, with a March 23 deadline to submit bids. A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

In the meantime, Pier 1 said lenders have committed approximately \$256 million in debtor-in-possession financing so it can continue its operations during the Chap-

ter 11 proceedings.

"Today's actions are intended to provide Pier 1 with additional time and financial flexibility as we now work to unlock additional value for our stakeholders through a sale of the company," Pier 1 CEO and Chief Financial Officer Robert Riesbeck said in a statement. Riesbeck, an executive with previous corporate turnarounds, joined Pier 1 last summer.

Ted Gavin, a retail bankruptcy expert and managing partner of the consulting firm Gavin/Solmonese, said he hasn't shopped at Pier 1 in more than a decade.

"People have been talking about Pier 1 heading for bankruptcy for a few years now. They've closed stores, they've struggled to find a steady customer base, they've struggled with falling sales," Gavin said.

Pier 1 was founded in 1962 in California, where it made its name selling incense, beanbag chairs and love beads. The company moved to Texas in 1966 and went public in 1970.

up a pork rotisserie grill on the side where people can just see the meat by themselves," Faustino said.

"A live band will also be there to play good songs and take requests. Since we are located by the beach, happy hour will prove to be unforgettable here at Marianas Bistro—more peaceful and away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Garapan," Faustino added.

Bistro Marianas is open from Monday to Sunday 7am-11pm. For more information, call (670) 482-2370 or look them up on FaceBook: Bistro Marianas Restaurant and Bar.

But in recent years, it struggled to draw customers to its often cramped and cluttered stores. The company has been trying to streamline its merchandise, improve online sales and draw in younger customers, but it was an uphill climb. On Monday, Pier 1 was selling a tufted velvet armchair for a sale price of \$399 on its web site. Target was offering a similar one for \$214.

In its most recent fiscal year, which ended in February 2019, Pier 1 reported sales of \$1.55 billion. That was down 18% from 2015. Pier 1's sales tumbled 13% to \$358 million in its most recent quarter, which ended Nov. 30.

Last month, Pier 1 announced it would close 450 stores, including all of its stores in Canada. The company is also closing two distribution centers. Pier 1 wouldn't say how many jobs will be affected.

Pier 1's shares have fallen 45% since the start of the year. They closed at \$3.58 per share on Friday. (AP)



Customers First



Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store



CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® SIRLOIN TIP STEAK
\$4²⁹
LB.



CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® FLANK STEAK
\$8⁹⁹
LB.



CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® BOTTOM ROUND ROAST
\$4²⁹
LB.



ST LOUIS STYLE RIBS
\$1⁹⁹
LB.



BONELESS CHICKEN LEGS
\$1⁹⁹
LB.

**YOU CAN SHOP,
EARN & SAVE!**



Customers First!
Rewards
plus!
Payless SuperFresh Truckload Store

SIGN UP TODAY
IT'S FREE!
ASK US HOW

WATERMELON SEEDLESS 65#
\$1²⁹ LB.

MANDARINS 3#
\$4⁹⁹ PKG.

ICEBERG LETTUCE
\$1⁴⁹ LB.

YELLOW CORN
\$1³⁹ LB.

BROCCOLI CROWNS
\$1⁶⁹ LB.

BEST FOODS MAYONNAISE 30 OZ.
\$5⁴⁹ EA.

OSCAR MAYER BOLOGNA 16 OZ.
\$2¹⁹ EA.

POINT REYES BLUE CHEESE WEDGE
\$4⁹⁹ EA.

EL MONTEREY BURRITOS ASSORTED 32 OZ.
\$4⁹⁹ EA.

KID CUISINE MEALS
\$2⁷⁹ EA.

BOCA ASSORTED VEGGIE PATTIES
\$2⁹⁹ EA.

BARBARAS CHEESE PUFFS OR CRUNCHIES
\$3³⁹ EA.

\$35⁹⁵
NORTHWEST TERRITORY BIG BOY XL MESH CHAIR

\$79⁹⁵
ESSENTIAL HOME 5PC TRAY + STAND SET

\$26⁹⁵
NORTHWEST TERRITORY LOW RESIN FOLDING CHAIR

\$24⁹⁵
METAL FOLDABLE SHOPPING CART LARGE WITH WHEELS

\$21⁹⁵
NEAT FREAK 3 TIER METAL BATHROOM RACK

\$14⁹⁵
DAHDOUL-LARGE CARGO MAT

\$35⁹⁵
HONG MA 5FT CENTER FOLDING TABLE

\$21⁹⁵
LUGGAGE 20"

\$139⁹⁵
6PC PATIO SET (4 CHAIRS, 1 TABLE & 1 UMBRELLA)

\$29⁹⁵
INFLATABLE BOAT" SAINT EVE 2 (1368-1)

\$8⁹⁵
HOMZ 18GAL TOTE

\$139⁹⁵
HOOVER WHOLE HOUSE HIGH CAPACITY PET VACUUM

\$29⁹⁵
CHAMPION BREED 50LB. DOG FOOD

\$59⁹⁵
MAGIC BULLET EXPRESS 11PC SET

\$45⁹⁵
IGLOO ISLAND BREEZE 48QT COOLER

\$4⁹⁵
STERILITE PAIL 16QT SKY BLUE

\$6⁹⁵
PLASTIC WATER DISPENSER

\$24⁹⁵
IMPRESS 16" OSCILLATING STAND FAN

\$21⁹⁵
COSCO TOPSIDE BOOSTER LEO

\$8⁹⁵
CLEAR 46QT (44L) STORAGE TOTE

Nation

Source: Barr tells people he might quit over Trump tweets

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorney General William Barr has told people close to him he's considering quitting his post after President Donald Trump wouldn't heed his warning to stop tweeting about Justice Department cases, an administration official told The Associated Press.

The revelation came days after Barr took a public swipe at the president, saying in a television interview that Trump's tweets about Justice Department cases and staffers make it "impossible" for him to do his job. The next day, Trump ignored Barr's request and insisted that he has the "legal right" to intervene in criminal cases

and sidestep the Justice Department's historical independence.

The administration official was not authorized to discuss Barr's private remarks and requested anonymity.

It's unclear how seriously Barr has considered resigning or whether he is instead trying to pressure Trump to back off his provocative tweets about the Justice Department. Barr's spokeswoman said late Tuesday that the attorney general "has no plans to resign."

Barr is one of the president's closest allies in the administration and has been a staunch defender of Trump's policy decisions. But considering resigning from his post suggests he



AP
In this Feb. 10, 2020, file photo, Attorney General William Barr speaks at the National Sheriffs' Association Winter Legislative and Technology Conference in Washington.

sees the Justice Department's reputation as an institution that makes decisions on criminal cases independently, unbound by political sway, as more important than his allegiance to the president.

Trump tweeted on Tuesday that he's considering suing those involved in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation and opined that his confidant Roger Stone deserved a new trial after being convicted of witness tampering and obstruction.

Barr's comments about Trump's tweets came during an interview with ABC News just days after his Justice Department overruled its own prosecutors—who had recommended in a court filing that Stone be sentenced to seven to nine years in prison—and took the extraordinary step of lowering the amount of prison time it would seek. All four prosecutors from Stone's

trial quit the case and one left the Justice Department altogether.

The reversal came after Trump blasted the original sentencing recommendation as "very horrible and unfair," though officials have insisted the decision to make a new recommendation came before Trump's tweet.

"I'm happy to say that, in fact, the president has never asked me to do anything in a criminal case," Barr said in the ABC News interview. "However, to have public statements and tweets made about the department, about our people ... about cases pending in the department, and about judges before whom we have cases, make it impossible for me to do my job and to assure the courts and the prosecutors in the department that we're doing our work with integrity."

The attorney general had been sharing the same sentiment privately with Trump for several weeks, a person familiar with the matter told The

Associated Press. The person was not authorized to discuss Barr's private conversations and requested anonymity.

Speaking to reporters earlier Tuesday, Trump said he understood his tweets makes Barr's job harder, but he showed no signs of relenting. He said he had "total confidence in my attorney general" but insisted that "everybody has the right to speak their mind." He added: "And I probably wouldn't have gotten here without social media because I certainly don't get fair press."

"Yeah, I do make his job harder. I do agree with that. I think that's true," he said. "He's a very straight shooter. We have a great attorney general, and he's working very hard. ... But I will say this: Social media, for me, has been very important because it gives me a voice, because I don't get that voice in the press. In the media, I don't get that voice. So I'm allowed to have a voice."

Ex-Gov. Blagojevich released from prison after Trump pardon

CHICAGO (AP)—Rod Blagojevich walked out of prison Tuesday after President Donald Trump cut short the 14-year prison sentence handed to the former Illinois governor for political corruption.

The Republican president said the punishment imposed on the Chicago Democrat and one-time contestant on Trump's reality TV show "Celebrity Apprentice" was excessive.

"So he'll be able to go back home with his family," Trump told reporters in Washington. "That was a tremendously powerful, ridiculous sentence in my opinion and in the opinion of many others."

The Chicago Tribune on Tuesday night posted a photo of the gray-haired Blagojevich at Denver International Airport.

Promising he will more to say in a Wednesday news conference, Blagojevich told WGN-TV he appreciated the president's action.

"He didn't have to do this, he's a Republican president and I was a Democratic governor," he said.

Blagojevich wouldn't say what plans he had for the future, however he did talk a bit about his time in prison.

"I've learned a lot about the criminal justice system, how unfair it can be, how unjust it is to people of color," he said. "I've drawn closer to God. There is divine intervention in all of this."

Blagojevich hails from a state with a long history of pay-to-play schemes. The 63-year-old was convicted in 2011 of crimes that included seeking to sell an appointment to Barack Obama's old Senate seat and trying to shake down a children's hospital.

Trump had said repeatedly in recent years that he was considering taking executive ac-

The Blagojevich timeline

Dec. 9, 2008

• An early morning arrest

At 6:15 a.m., Gov. Rod Blagojevich is roused from home, handcuffed and arrested on charges that he conspired to sell his office many times over — including putting a price on the U.S. Senate seat vacated by President-elect Barack Obama.

Jan. 9, 2009

• Impeached

The Illinois House votes 114-1 to impeach Blagojevich and send him to trial in the Senate.

Jan. 29, 2009

• Removed from office

The Illinois Senate votes 59-0 to remove Blagojevich. Pat Quinn is sworn in as the state's 41st governor.

April 2, 2009

• Charged with racketeering, fraud and extortion

A federal grand jury indicts Blagojevich on 16 counts, including racketeering, fraud and extortion.

April 14, 2009

• Pleads not guilty

The former governor is in the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse for a routine arraignment, entering a not guilty plea.

June 8, 2010

• Trial begins

Assistant U.S. Attorney Carrie Hamilton says Blagojevich put his own interests ahead of the people he was supposed to represent.

Aug. 17, 2010

• Jury deadlocked on most counts

After 14 days of deliberations, the six-man, six-woman jury convicted Blagojevich on just one of the 24 felony counts he faced. Prosecutors make it clear they intend to quickly retry Blagojevich on the 23 counts on which the jury deadlocked.

April 21, 2011

• Retrial begins

Blagojevich's new corruption trial bumps into the old one, which received an avalanche of publicity.

June 27, 2011

• Guilty on 17 of 20 counts

In its 10th day of deliberations, the 11-woman, one-man jury convicts Blagojevich of several shakedown attempts, including allegations that he brazenly tried to sell Obama's old U.S. Senate seat in 2008.

Dec. 7, 2011

• Sentenced to 14 years

Blagojevich is sentenced to 14 years in federal prison — the second-longest term ever delivered in federal court in Chicago for a public corruption case.

March 15, 2012

• Reports to prison in Colorado

After signing autographs and posing for photos at O'Hare International Airport, Blagojevich lands in Denver.

Dec. 13, 2013

• 7th Circuit hears appeal arguments

Lawyers for Blagojevich appealed his conviction, arguing that U.S. District Judge James Zagel made "one-sided evidentiary rulings."

July 21, 2015

• 5 counts thrown out

A federal appeals court in Chicago throws out five of the 18 counts against Blagojevich and orders his sentence vacated.

March 28, 2016

• U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear case

Aug. 9, 2016

• Zagel resents Blagojevich to 14 years

Zagel puts an end to the case by imposing the same sentence he had in 2011.

April 21, 2017

• 7th Circuit upholds the resentence

A six-page opinion by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals effectively slams the door on Blagojevich's last real chance of either winning a new trial or reducing his time behind bars.

Feb. 18, 2020

• Trump commutes sentence

Source: The Chicago Tribune
Graphic: Staff, TNS

tion in Blagojevich's case, only to back away from the idea.

One of Blagojevich lawyers said she refused to believe it at first when word of her client's possible release began to spread, fearing that the president might not follow through.

"When it became obvious it was real, I got tears in my eyes," said Lauren Kaesberg. "It was overwhelming."

Others in Illinois, including the governor, said setting Blagojevich free was a mistake.

Trump "has abused his pardon power in inexplicable ways to reward his friends and condone corruption, and I deeply believe this pardon sends the wrong message at the wrong time," Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in a written statement.

Many Republicans agreed.

"In a state where corrupt, machine-style politics is still all too common, it's important that those found guilty serve their prison sentence in its entirety," said the chairman of the Illinois GOP, Tim Schneider.

The White House cited support from several Illinois-based leaders, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, as supporting Blagojevich's early release. More than 100 of his fellow inmates also sent in letters of support.

Trump made clear that he saw similarities between efforts to investigate his own conduct and those who took down Blagojevich.

"It was a prosecution by the same people—Comey, Fitzpatrick, the same group," Trump said. He was referring to Patrick Fitzgerald, the former U.S. attorney who prosecuted Blagojevich and now represents former FBI Director James Comey, whom Trump fired from the agency in May 2017.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 1 dead, 4 wounded in Connecticut club shooting

HARTFORD, Conn.

(AP)—Gunfire erupted at a Connecticut nightclub early Sunday morning, killing a man and wounding four other people, police said. A 28-year-old man died in the shooting at the Majestic Lounge in Hartford's South End, police Lt. Paul Cicero said. Two other males and two females were wounded, with two of them in surgery Sunday morning and two in stable condition, he said. None of their names were released. Police officers had been stationed outside the club because of previous problems there and reported the shooting at about 1:30 a.m. Officers rushed in, but were confronted with a large number of people running toward the exits, Cicero said. "Everybody started pushing their way out to get away from the gunfire," he said. "It was kind of pandemonium." Officers, however, were able to provide immediate medical care to the victims, he said.

Woman pleads guilty in 1993 LA arson fire that killed 10

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman pleaded guilty Tuesday to voluntary manslaughter in a 1993 arson fire at a Los Angeles apartment building that killed 10 people, including seven children. Johanna Lopez,

54, entered the plea to two felony counts and could face 22 years in state prison when she is sentenced in June. Prosecutors said Lopez was paying a gang for the right to distribute crack cocaine in the neighborhood and enlisted two members in a plot to set fire to the three-story complex in the Westlake area because they were upset that the manager was trying to stop drug deals. "The apartment manager was moving furniture on May 3, 1993, when a mattress that was in a hallway was set on fire and smoke from the flames spread throughout the complex," according to a statement from the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

Police: Man stabbed child at random in Texas McDonald's

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A 25-year-old man was arrested Tuesday afternoon after authorities said he randomly stabbed a child while she was in the play area at a McDonald's restaurant in El Paso, Texas. Police say the girl—who is about 4 or 5 years old—was in stable condition at a hospital after undergoing surgery. The suspect fled on foot but was found hiding in nearby motel room and was arrested, police said. Police have not yet released the suspect's name. No further information was immediately available.

Asia

New virus cases in China fall for 2nd day, deaths top 2K

BEIJING (AP)—New virus cases in China continued to fall Wednesday, with 1,749 new infections and 136 new deaths announced after China's leader said disease prevention and control was at "a critical time."

The much-criticized quarantine of a cruise ship in Japan to avoid spreading the virus ends later in the day. The 542 cases on the ship were the most in any place outside of China and medical experts have called the quarantine a failure.

The updated figures on the COVID-19 illness for mainland China bring the total for cases to 74,185 and deaths to 2,004. New cases have fallen to under 2,000 daily for the past two days.

Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke about the efforts to control the outbreak in a phone call with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson described in state media.

Separately, the U.N. secretary-general told The Associated Press that the virus outbreak "is not out of control but it is a very dangerous situation." Antonio Guterres said in an interview in Lahore, Pakistan, that "the risks are enormous and we need to be prepared worldwide for that."

China has locked down several cities in central Hubei province where the outbreak hit hardest, halting nearly all transportation and movement except for the quarantine efforts, medical care and delivery of food and basic necessities.



In this Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020, photo, shoppers look at antiseptic gel on sale at the 7Fresh supermarket in Beijing.

China also may postpone its biggest political meeting of the year, the annual congress due to start in March, to avoid having people travel to Beijing while the virus is still spreading. One of the automotive industry's biggest events, China's biannual auto show, was postponed, and many sports and entertainment events have been delayed or canceled.

Many countries set up border screenings and airlines canceled flights to and from China to prevent further spread of the disease, which has been detected in around two dozen countries and caused almost 1,000 confirmed cases outside mainland China. Five deaths have been reported outside

the mainland, in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines and France.

The largest number of cases outside China is the 542 on the Diamond Princess at a port near Tokyo.

South Korea evacuated six South Koreans and a Japanese family member from the ship, and they began an additional 14-day quarantine Wednesday. More than 300 American passengers were evacuated earlier and are quarantined in the United States, including at least 14 who had tested positive for the virus.

On Tuesday, the U.S. government said the more than 100 American passengers who stayed on the ship or were

hospitalized in Japan would have to wait for another two weeks before they could return to the U.S.

The U.S. also upgraded its travel advisory for China to Level 4, telling its citizens not to travel to anywhere in the country and advising those currently in China to attempt to depart by commercial means.

"In the event that the situation further deteriorates, the ability of the U.S. Embassy and

Consulates to provide assistance to U.S. nationals within China may be limited. The United States is not offering chartered evacuation flights from China," the notice said.

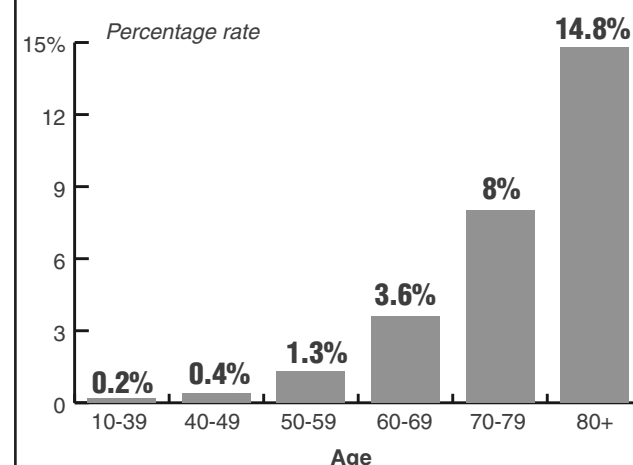
"We strongly urge U.S. citizens remaining in China to stay home as much as possible and limit contact with others, including large gatherings. Consider stocking up on food and other supplies to limit movement outside the home," the notice said. The U.S. previously flew out scores of its

citizens on charter flights from Wuhan but does not have any further plans to do so, it said.

Despite, such warnings, the capital Beijing was showing signs of coming back to life this week, with road traffic at around a quarter of usual up from virtually nothing a week ago. While most restaurants, stores and office buildings remained closed, others had reopened. People entering were required to have their temperatures taken and register their contact information.

Coronavirus fatality rate

In mainland China the elderly are most at risk. China on Tuesday reported 1,886 new cases and 98 more deaths. That raised the number of deaths in mainland China to 1,868 and the total number of confirmed cases to 72,436.



Source: BBC, Chinese Center for Disease Control
Graphic: Staff, TNS

ASIAN BRIEFS

India hastily builds wall along slum ahead of Trump visit

AHMEDABAD, India (AP)—A half-kilometer (1,640-foot) brick wall has been hastily erected in India's Gujarat state ahead of a visit by U.S. President Donald Trump, with critics saying it was built to block the view of a slum area inhabited by more than 2,000 people.

"Since they are spending so much money on this wall, why not use that to improve our slum and provide better facilities for us," said Keshi Saraniya, a resident. "Why are they hiding us poor people?" Trump is visiting the city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat during a two-day trip to India next week to attend an event called "Namaste Trump," which translates to "Greetings, Trump," at a cricket stadium along the lines of a "Howdy Modi" rally attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Houston last September. Trump is to drive along a road next to the slum and will be accompanied by Modi, who is from Gujarat. News reports said the wall was originally planned to be 6-7 feet (1.8-2.1 meters) high but was reduced

to 4 feet (1.2 meters) after it received widespread publicity. Senior government official Bijal Patel said the wall was built "for security reasons" and not to conceal the slum.

Indian police open case against Kashmir social media users

NEW DELHI (AP)—Authorities in Indian-controlled Kashmir have registered a case against unidentified internet users who employed virtual private networks, or VPNs, to circumvent a social media ban in the disputed region, police said Tuesday, in an apparent effort to stop their use. Police said they misused social media "to propagate a secessionist ideology and promote unlawful activities." "Hundreds of suspected misusers have been identified and are being probed," said Tahir Ashraf, who heads the police cyber division in Srinagar, the region's main city. Police said in a statement Monday that they have seized "a lot of incriminating material," adding that the accused could be charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, which also allows the government to designate individuals

as "terrorists." Police officials questioned several users about their social media posts. However, no formal arrests have been made. Inspector-General Vijay Kumar appealed to the general public not to use social media via VPNs.

4 killed, dozens injured in highway pileup in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Four people were killed and 43 were injured Monday in a highway pileup in snowy weather in southwestern South Korea, officials said. The Jeonbuk Provincial Police Agency said the pileup involved about 30 vehicles, including a chemical truck carrying nitric acid that flipped over and caught fire inside a tunnel. Police official Jeon Gwang-hun said he couldn't provide further details because the investigation of the cause of the accident was continuing. Kim Jun-ho, an official from the Korea Expressway Corporation, said its workers had removed snow in the area before the accident and it wasn't immediately clear whether the accident was caused by icy road conditions or careless driving.

Passengers begin leaving after ship's virus quarantine ends

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP)—Hundreds of passengers began leaving the Diamond Princess cruise ship Wednesday after the end of a much-criticized, two-week quarantine that failed to stop the spread of a new virus among passengers and crew.

Results were still pending for some passengers who've been tested for the coronavirus that has infected tens of thousands of people in China and more than 540 on the ship.

Some passengers said on Twitter they received health check forms asking if they had symptoms such as a headache, fever or coughing. Passengers who tested negative and had no symptoms still had to get their body temperature checked before leaving.

Japanese soldiers helped escort some passengers, including an elderly man in a wheelchair who wore a face mask and held a cane. Some passengers apparently called taxis to get home; others got

on buses to be transported to train stations. Some people still in their ship cabins waved farewell from their balconies to those who'd already disembarked.

"I'm a bit concerned if I'm okay to get off the ship, but it was getting very difficult physically," a 77-year-old man from Saitama, near Tokyo, who got off with his wife, told Kyodo News. "For now, we just want to celebrate."

About 500 passengers were expected to leave Wednesday, and Japanese officials will spend several days staging the high-stakes evacuation of about 2,000 others who were kept aboard the ship at the Yokohama port near Tokyo after one passenger who departed the Diamond Princess earlier in Hong Kong was found to have the virus.

The ship, which some experts have called a perfect virus incubator, has become the site of the most infections outside of China, where

the illness named COVID-19 emerged late last year. As of Tuesday, 542 cases have been identified among the original 3,711 people on the ship.

Even though Japanese officials insist the number of infected patients is leveling off, dozens of new cases on the ship continue to mount daily. On Tuesday, 88 people tested positive; a day earlier 99 others were found to have been infected.

Crew members, who couldn't be confined to their rooms over the last two weeks because they were working, are expected to stay on the ship.

The ship's operator, Princess Cruises, said in a statement Tuesday that 169 people who tested positive recently were still on the ship as they waited for transportation to hospitals.

The safety and transport logistics for moving hundreds of people will test Japanese officials.

World

Huge locust outbreak in East Africa reaches South Sudan

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)—The worst locust outbreak that parts of East Africa have seen in 70 years has reached South Sudan, a country where roughly half the population already faces hunger after years of civil war, officials announced Tuesday.

Around 2,000 locusts were spotted inside the country, Agriculture Minister Onyoti Adigo told reporters. Authorities will try to control the outbreak, he added.

The locusts have been seen in Eastern Equatoria state near the borders with Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. All have been affected by the outbreak that has been influenced by the changing climate in the region.

The situation in those three countries “remains extremely alarming,” the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said in its latest Locust Watch update Monday. Locusts also have reached Sudan, Eritrea, Tanzania and more recently Uganda.

The soil in South Sudan’s Eastern Equatoria has a sandy nature that allows the locusts to lay eggs easily, said Meshack Malo, country representative with the FAO.

At this stage “if we are not able to deal with them ... it will be a problem,” he said.



South Sudan is even less prepared than other countries in the region for a locust outbreak, and its people are arguably more vulnerable. More than 5 million people are severely food insecure, the U.N. humanitarian office says in its latest assessment, and some 860,000 children are malnourished.

ished.

Five years of civil war shattered South Sudan’s economy, and lingering insecurity since a 2018 peace deal continues to endanger humanitarians trying to distribute aid. Another local aid worker was shot and killed last week, the U.N. said Tuesday.

The locusts have traveled across the region in swarms the size of major cities. Experts say their only effective control is aerial spraying

with pesticides, but U.N. and local authorities have said more aircraft and pesticides are required. A handful of planes have been active in Ke-

Netanyahu trial clouds last days of Israel election campaign

JERUSALEM (AP)—The criminal trial for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will begin March 17, court officials announced Tuesday, shaking up the final stretch of a contentious election campaign and hurting the longtime Israeli leader’s hopes of forming a new government after the vote.

The announcement means that Netanyahu will appear in the Jerusalem court as a defendant just two weeks after the March 2 election. After a campaign in which Netanyahu has worked feverishly to divert attention from his legal woes, the final days of the race are almost certain to play into the hands of his opponents by focusing on the looming trial.

Netanyahu was indicted in November on charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in connection to a series of scandals. He is accused of accepting lavish gifts from billionaire friends and offering regulatory favors to local media moguls in exchange for positive news coverage. Netanyahu, Israel’s longest-serving prime minister, has denied any wrongdoing.

In a brief statement, the court said Netanyahu is expected to attend the initial hearing.

The March 2 election is Israel’s third in under a year. Like the previous elections in April and September, the upcoming vote is seen largely

as a personal referendum on Netanyahu.

The previous elections ended in deadlock, with both Netanyahu’s Likud Party and the rival Blue and White, led by former military chief Benny Gantz, unable to secure parliamentary majorities. Opinion polls have predicted a similar outcome in the third.

Gantz said it was a “sad” development that would prevent Netanyahu from focusing on his duties as prime minister.

“Netanyahu will be preoccupied with himself alone. He will not be in a position to look out for the interests of Israel’s citizens,” he said.

Netanyahu responded to Gantz’s remarks by criticizing him without directly addressing the trial.

Netanyahu is desperate to remain as prime minister, a position he can use as a bully pulpit to rally public support. He has repeatedly sought to portray himself as the victim of a witch hunt by overzealous police, hostile prosecutors and the media.

With the exception of the prime minister, Israeli law requires public officials to resign if charged with a crime. That means that if Netanyahu is forced to give up his position, he would go on trial as a private citizen. Netanyahu last month gave up an attempt to seek immunity from prosecution after concluding he did

In this photo taken Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, young desert locusts that have not yet grown wings jump in the air as they are approached, as a visiting delegation from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) observes them, in the desert near Garowe, in the semi-autonomous Puntland region of Somalia.

nya and Ethiopia.

The U.N. has said \$76 million is needed immediately. On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during a visit to Ethiopia said the U.S. would donate another \$8 million to the effort. That follows an earlier \$800,000.

The number of overall locusts could grow up to 500 times by June, when drier weather begins, experts have said. Until then, the fear is that more rains in the coming weeks will bring fresh vegetation to feed a new generation of the voracious insects.

South Sudanese ministers called for a collective regional response to the outbreak that threatens to devastate crops and pasturage.

not have enough support in parliament.

Throughout the current campaign, Netanyahu has gone to great lengths to make voters forget about his trial. Instead, he has sought to painted himself as a global statesman uniquely qualified to lead the country through tumultuous times.

He boasts of Israel’s emergence as a natural gas exporter, his strategy of confronting archenemy Iran and warming behind-the-scenes alliances with former Arab foes in the Persian Gulf.

But more than anything, he points to his close friendship with President Donald Trump, bragging that it gives Israel a unique opportunity to push its international agenda. Just three weeks ago, Netanyahu was welcomed at the White House for a festive event unveiling Trump’s long-awaited Mideast plan. The plan greatly favored Israel at the expense of the Palestinians.

Netanyahu then jetted off to Moscow, where he leveraged his good relations with President Vladimir Putin to win the release of a young Israeli woman who had been jailed on minor drug charges. In recent days, he has turned inward, promising young Israelis that he will lower the high cost of living and assuring voters the country is prepared for the coronavirus scare.

UK unveils immigration overhaul for 2021 focused on skills

LONDON (AP)—Britain announced new post-Brexit immigration rules Tuesday that will make it tougher for European Union citizens, but easier for people from many other nations, to move to the U.K. starting next year.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Conservative government said the new rules would “open up the U.K. to the brightest and the best from around the world” while ending “the reliance on cheap, low-skilled labor coming into the country.” But U.K. employers said the radical changes could bring about a labor crisis for sectors such as health and social care.

Britain’s exit from the EU last month after 47 years of membership is triggering the biggest change to the country’s immigration rules for decades.

During Britain’s EU membership—and until a post-Brexit transition period runs out on Dec. 31—citizens of any of the EU’s 27 nations can freely live and work in the U.K.

More than 3 million EU citizens currently living in the U.K. are entitled to stay. But from January 1, 2021, new immigration rules will apply to

EU and non-EU citizens alike.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said Britain’s new “points-based immigration system” would assess prospective immigrants on a range of skills, qualifications, salaries or professions.

People hoping to work in Britain will need a job offer paying at least 25,600 pounds (\$33,000) a year. That’s less than the current 30,000 pounds (\$39,000) set for non-EU immigrants, a figure that is more than the country’s average annual wage. Prospective immigrants who earn less may be able to come if they have other skills.

Skilled immigrants are currently required to have a university degree but in future will only need the equivalent of Britain’s pre-university “A levels.”

The government says the new rules will cut net immigration from its current level of more than 200,000 people a year. But it has abandoned a pledge made by previous Conservative governments to cut Britain’s annual net immigration figure to below 100,000 a year.

The immigration plan still has to be passed by Parliament—which is highly likely

since the Conservatives have a large majority.

The government said it would come up with specific proposals for scientists, graduates, health care workers and those in the agricultural sector. But there is no specific immigration route for what the government calls “low-skilled workers”—a category it says includes 70% of the more than 1 million EU citizens who have moved to the U.K. since 2004.

Hundreds of thousands of EU citizens currently hold jobs in sectors including farming, health care and restaurants that are relatively low-paid.

Employers in those industries have warned there will be worker shortages under the tighter immigration rules. The U.K. Homecare Association described the lack of provisions for low-paid migrant workers in the proposals as “irresponsible.”

“Cutting off the supply of prospective care workers under a new migration system will pave the way for more people waiting unnecessarily in hospital or going without care,” it said.

But the government was unsympathetic.

Environment

By ROSANNA XIA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

FOSTER CITY, Calif.—When Jeff Moneda first started working for Foster City, where trails wind along the town's scenic lagoons and the nicest homes perch along its picturesque canals, he received an email from federal emergency officials that jolted him into action.

"The first thing in my inbox was a letter from FEMA that said, 'You need to raise your levee or we're going to place the entire city in a flood zone,'" said Moneda, the city manager. "Talk about stress."

For a city of 34,000 that was built on filled-in marshland along San Francisco Bay, the future hinges on the strength of an eight-mile-long levee that for decades has held back the rising sea. But with every tide and storm, the water keeps trying to move back and reclaim the town. Flood maps, even in more moderate scenarios, show much of the city inundated if nothing is done.

The fate of Foster City and the rest of the Bay Area was front and center last week as state lawmakers grappled with the many threats California must confront as the ocean pushes farther inland. A special committee of state lawmakers gathered — for the second time in two months after years without meeting — to reignite a much-needed discussion on how to better prepare communities up and down the coast from devastating loss.

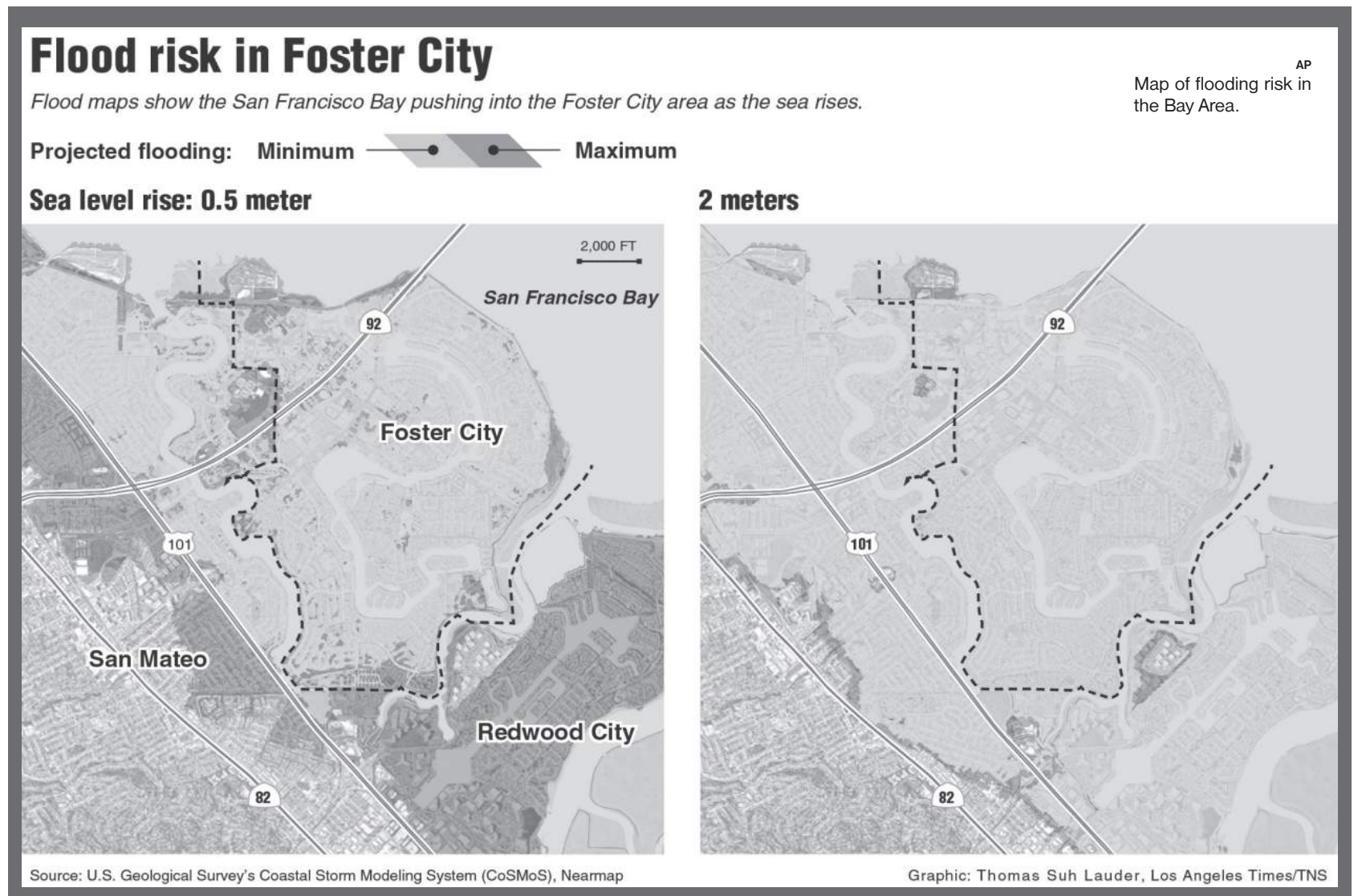
Homes are flooding and critical roads and infrastructure are already mere feet from toppling into the sea, they said, but cities up and down the coast have been paralyzed by the difficult choices ahead. More than \$150 billion in property could be at risk of flooding by 2100 — the economic damage far more destructive than from the state's worst earthquakes and wildfires.

Failure to act will result in lost opportunities to be proactive — and much higher costs, according to scientists, local officials and legislative analysts who spoke before the state Assembly's Select Committee on Sea Level Rise and the California Economy.

Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner Horvath, D-Encinitas, who revived the committee last year, acknowledged just how much is at stake and said the Legislature needs to act fast and figure out what to prioritize.

"We are already 10 years late to this issue," she said, "and there are options that are slipping away from us as we postpone a very difficult conversation."

These remarks come at



Rising seas already overwhelm the Bay Area.

Here is the desperate bid to avert disaster

a time when more officials across the state are waking up to the social, economic and environmental catastrophe of sea level rise. The Ocean Protection Council, an advisory body tasked with guiding the state's coastal policies, is now pushing California to be prepared for at least 3.5 feet of sea level rise by 2050.

Legislative analysts, in an unprecedented report, recently made the case that any action — or lack of action — within the next 10 years could determine the fate of the California coast.

For those in the Bay Area — where millions of people rely on major roads and infrastructure at risk of chronic flooding — fighting against the sea has been a costly and overwhelming challenge.

With just 2 feet of flood-

ing around the Bay Area, as many as 90,000 people could be left homeless, one official said. Keeping the island city of Alameda above water could cost almost \$1 billion, another said, but would avert \$8 billion in damage. Infrastructure engineers made the case for better sea walls to protect the San Francisco and Oakland airports — both built on bay fill and barely supported by aging dikes.

In Foster City, property owners ended up agreeing — by a more than 80% vote — to tax themselves \$90 million to raise the levee many feet higher. Officials hope to start construction as early as this summer.

The barrier, mostly earthen, currently curves along the bay for miles. On Saturday, the morning of the annual king tide—a period when the sun,

moon and Earth are aligned closest together and create a higher-than-high tide—water levels rose as high as 9 feet, according to the nearest tide gauge.

Across the bay, groups of people gathered on piers and harbors, beaches and estuaries, to witness the water creeping up bridges and pushing into wetlands and low-lying roads. These extreme tides, coastal scientists say, will eventually become the new normal.

Compounding the problem in this region is groundwater flooding as the ocean moves farther inland—what some researchers call "the sea beneath us."

As the ocean rises, that pressure pushes freshwater up from beneath our feet, said Kristina Hill, whose research at the University of California, Berkeley focuses on this

less-talked-about sea level rise issue. Basements and underground foundations will heave, brackish water could corrode sewer pipes, toxic contaminants buried in the soil could bubble up and spread.

"We could spend hundreds of billions of dollars and still have flooding on the inland side of all those levees," Hill told the sea level rise committee, showing a map of areas where the water is already leaking out of the ground. "We're very concerned about human health and the health of the bay."

Solutions, experts say, depend on more cities, transportation officials and property owners working together across regions. Too many are still jostling for money and approvals to defend what's theirs — rather than seeing the much bigger picture.

Rising tides and former marshes do not heed to city boundaries or property lines, they said, and the action of one jurisdiction may affect another down the coast. There needs to be more coordination, officials agreed, to restore wetlands and rethink critical infrastructure that serves more than any one community.

San Mateo County, for example, recently formed a cross-jurisdictional sea level rise resiliency district that is funded even by its inland communities. Officials say this new flood control approach allows the region to plan for all its shoreline needs in a way that cannot be done on a city-

by-city basis.

Still, some last week worried that these new regional efforts could hurt their communities at the cost of protecting those with more political sway and power. Will the city of Millbrae, one official asked, be paying to protect more influential cities — while absorbing much of the environmental impact?

Mark Stechbart, a resident of Pacifica, called on state lawmakers to not give up on sea walls. In his town, where bluffs are crumbling and waves often overtop roads, a push by some officials to consider relocating inland has angered many property owners.

Pacifica, he said, should be "afforded the same protections as SFO and Google headquarters, which we desperately need; otherwise, very serious amounts of property value are going to go in the water."

Warner Chabot, who heads the San Francisco Estuary Institute, said more pilot projects will help make the case for sharing resources and ideas across boundaries. He has spent years encouraging the Bay Area's many different agencies to think about the shoreline beyond parcel by parcel, town by town.

With more support from the state, he urged lawmakers, California's coastal communities can be "a national model of how urban regions, at the edge of the sea, can provide bold, equitable and inclusive solutions to climate change."

Life & Style

Elton John cancels New Zealand shows as he battles pneumonia

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Elton John canceled his two remaining New Zealand shows late Tuesday as he continued to suffer from a bout of pneumonia.

The shows have been rescheduled for next year. Earlier this week, John needed to cut short a performance in Auckland after he lost his

voice and needed medical help on stage.

John said in a statement Tuesday he was ‘incredibly disappointed’ and sent his sincerest apologies to his fans. He said that at this stage, he is planning to play his scheduled shows in Australia, which is where his farewell tour moves to next.

Video clips posted online by fans at Sunday night’s performance showed John breaking down in tears as he told the cheering crowd he couldn’t go on any longer. The 72-year-old singer said he had walking pneumo-



John

nia and was assisted off stage.

Tour promoters Chugg Entertainment initially said that John was recovering and the tour would go on as planned, aside from pushing back the next New Zealand performance

by one day to Wednesday.

But on Tuesday night, the promoters released another statement.

“Despite the best efforts of a performer who never wants to disappoint his fans, upon further consultation from doctors and specialists, it has this evening been decided that Sir Elton John’s two remaining Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland, performances will be rescheduled to Friday 15th and Saturday 16th January 2021,” it said.

John said he’d be back.

“I always want to be able to give 100% and I’m afraid that, right now, I’m not able to do that. I am grateful for the love and loyalty I have been shown by all of you and I can’t wait to return in January next year to perform my final New Zealand shows,” he said in his statement.

The concerts were part of John’s Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour. After the New Zealand

shows, John is scheduled for seven performances in Australia before traveling to the U.S. and Canada.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Monday she watched John’s shortened show and got to meet him for about five minutes before he started playing.

“You could tell that he wasn’t feeling well and he said he wasn’t feeling well,” Ardern said. “So I think you could see that on the stage last night, which I think is just a credit to his commitment to his fans.”

John had told the crowd he was ill but that he didn’t want to miss the show, according to the New Zealand Herald. He slumped on a stool and required medical attention after performing “Someone Saved My Life Tonight,” but recovered and continued to play. Later, as he attempted to sing “Daniel,” he said he realized he had no voice left and was escorted off stage.

Jury ends 1st day of deliberations in Weinstein’s rape trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Jurors in Harvey Weinstein’s rape trial ended their first day of deliberations Tuesday with lots of questions and no verdict in the landmark #MeToo case that could put the once-powerful Hollywood producer behind bars for the rest of his life.

The panel of seven men and five women asked to see a floor plan of Weinstein’s apartment and emails, including one he sent to a private spy agency in 2017 listing certain accusers he feared would come forward as “red flags.”

The jury is weighing charges that Weinstein raped a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performed oral sex on another woman, TV and film production assistant Mimi Haley, in 2006.

In deciding the most serious charges against Weinstein, which allege that he is a sexual predator, jurors must also weigh actress Anabella Sciorra’s account of a mid-1990s rape. While her allegation is too old to be charged on its own because to the statute of limitations in effect at the time, the law allows prosecutors to use her allegations as a basis for the predatory sexual assault counts.

The jury will resume deliberations Wednesday.



Harvey Weinstein talks to reporters as he arrives at a Manhattan courthouse for his rape trial in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020.

AP

Jurors sent their first questions about 40 minutes into deliberations, asking for the legal definition of terms like consent and forcible compulsion, and seeking clarity on why Weinstein wasn’t charged with other crimes stemming from Sciorra’s allegation.

Prosecutors built their case around graphic, often-harrowing testimony from those women, along with three other accusers who were not part of the criminal case but were allowed to take the witness stand because they say Weinstein used them same tactics on them.

Weinstein’s lawyers contend the acts were consensual. They focused on friendly, flirtatious emails some of the women sent to Weinstein and further meetings some of them had with him after the alleged assaults.

A torrent of allegations against Weinstein in October 2017 spawned the #MeToo movement. His trial is seen as a watershed moment for the cause, but Judge James Burke has cautioned jurors that it is “not a referendum on the #MeToo movement.”

Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno sent a similar message in a Newsweek essay

over the weekend, drawing complaints from a prosecutor who said she appeared to be trying to influence the jury.

Rotunno wrote that Weinstein’s jurors “have an obligation to themselves and their country, to base their verdict solely on the facts, testimony and evidence presented to them in the courtroom,” not critical news stories, unflattering courtroom sketches or other outside influences.

Confronted about the essay in court Tuesday, Rotunno said she was writing “about the jury system as a whole” and was not speaking to the jury in Weinstein’s case.

Utah lawmakers get tough on porn, ease up on polygamy

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Utah lawmakers voted Tuesday to put new regulations on pornography and remove some on polygamy in separate proposals moving quickly through the Legislature in the deeply conservative state.

Senators voted unanimously to change state law to remove the threat of jail time for consenting adult polygamists, a step that supporters argue will free people in communities that practice plural marriage to report abuses, like children being taken as wives, without fear of prosecution.

A majority of people in Utah belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which had an early history of polygamy but has forbidden it for more than a century.

An hour later, House lawmakers approved a proposal to require pornography to carry warning labels about harm to minors. An adult entertainment industry group called the vote a dark day for freedom of expression.

The faith widely known as the Mormon church declared pornography a public health crisis in 2016, and since then, more than a dozen states have advanced similar proposals.

The labeling proposal from Republican state Rep. Brady Brammer would carry a potential penalty of \$2,500 per violation.

“I think it will make a difference,” Brammer said. “It

won’t stop every problem related to obscenity, it will not stop all obscenity, but it will move the ball further down the field.”

Republican lawmakers called it a creative solution. The measure would apply to material that appears in Utah in print or online and allow the state and residents to sue producers.

The new measure is narrowly aimed at hardcore obscene material, but the way the law is written could still allow for thousands of lawsuits, said Mike Stabile, a spokesman for the Free Speech Coalition, a pornography and adult entertainment trade group.

“Really it just sort of opens up the floodgates for lawsuits over all sorts of content,” he said.

He also argues the dire harms outlined in the proposed warning label haven’t been proven.

The porn warning labels need to be approved by the Senate, while the reduction in punishments for polygamy must pass the House.

Utah’s restrictive bigamy law is an outgrowth of the church’s history with polygamy. While mainstream members abandoned the practice in 1890, an estimated 30,000 people living in polygamous communities follow teachings that taking multiple wives brings exaltation in heaven.

‘Fresh Off the Boat’ leaving indelible mark on TV landscape

By TERRY TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even before “Fresh Off the Boat” hit the airwaves on ABC in February 2015, the show was facing pressure that other new shows weren’t.

It was set to be the first network TV comedy with an all-Asian cast since Margaret Cho’s “All-American Girl” premiered 20 years earlier. ABC canceled that series after one season, and some wondered how long this show would last too.

Randall Park, who portrays patriarch Louis, never

even thought the pilot—inspired by restaurateur and TV personality Eddie Huang’s childhood memoir—would be picked up.

“The odds of a show getting picked up are tiny. On top of that, being an Asian-American family at the center of a show just made it kind of seem impossible in my head,” Park told The Associated Press in a phone interview from Atlanta, where he is filming the Marvel/Disney+ series “WandaVision.”

Now, after six seasons, “Fresh Off the Boat” will make its final voyage Friday.

Without question, the sitcom, centered on a Taiwanese-Chinese American family in the 1990s living in predominantly white Orlando, Florida—will be immortalized in the canon of Asian-American representation. It accomplished some unique firsts, like being the first American TV show to film on location in Taiwan and having a majority of dialogue in one episode be in Mandarin. It paved the path for movie stardom for Park (“Always Be My Maybe”) and on-screen wife Constance Wu (“Crazy Rich Asians,” “Hustlers”). And having passed

100 episodes, the Huangs will live on in syndication for years to come.

Hudson Yang, 16, was 9 years old when he won the role of Eddie. Thanks to his father, journalist Jeff Yang, he had an inkling this wasn’t just any TV gig.

“My Dad would definitely talk about how important it was to have this kind of show. We talked about how previously ‘All-American Girl’ tried to do the same thing,” Yang said. “I knew a little bit about how important it was but I didn’t really know the full scale until a little bit later on.”

LONDON (AP)—Scottish singer-songwriter Lewis Capaldi and soulful London rapper Dave took top prizes Tuesday at the U.K. music industry's Brit Awards, where Dave brought some political edge to the glossy talent parade.

Billie Eilish and Tyler the Creator were among the international winners at the awards, which have been criticized for a dearth of female nominees.

The 21-year-old south Londoner Dave won the coveted album of the year prize for the self-reflective "Psychodrama."

Accepting the trophy, he gave a shout out to other young people from Britain's cities with big aspirations.

"All my young kings and queens that are chasing their dreams, I'm no different from you," he said.

Capaldi's U.K. and U.S. chart-topper "Someone You Loved" was named song of the year, and Capaldi also won the best new artist prize during the ceremony at London's O2 Arena.

Grime artist Stormzy was

named British male artist of the year, the second time he has won the award. Singer-songwriter Mabel, daughter of musician Neneh Cherry, was named U.K. female solo artist of the year.

Mabel said on the red carpet that it was "such a lovely sort of full-circle moment" to perform at the Brits 30 years after her mother did the same.

Previously an unpredictable and sometimes ramshackle event, the Brits have been re-fashioned in recent years as a slick showcase for British talent. This year organizers culled several awards categories to make more room for performances, including turns by Capaldi, Mabel and Harry Styles.

Lizzo got the audience worked up with her Grammy-winning anthem "Truth Hurts," while Stormzy brought on Nigerian singer Burna Boy and scores of extras for a medley of hits.

Dave held the audience rapt with a piano-accompanied, slow-burning rendition of "Black" in which he accused Prime Min-

^{AP}
Lizzo performs on stage at the Brit Awards 2020 in London, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020.

ister Boris Johnson of racism, contrasted "how the news treats Kate versus how they treated Meghan" and paid homage to Jack Merritt, the young prisoner-rehabilitation worker killed in a knife attack near London Bridge last year. by a radicalized ex-inmate he had been helping.

The award for international female artist went to Eilish, who won five Grammy Awards last month.

Comedian Jack Whitehall, the evening's host, quipped that the 18-year-old superstar was "the only teenager in the world who makes Greta Thunberg look lazy."

Eilish, who has spoken off her mental health struggles, told the audience: "I have felt very hated recently."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Carnival revelers poke fun at world leaders in Germany

MAINZ, Germany (AP)—The heads and bodies are gigantic, the subjects are world leaders, and the creations are irresistible to look at. All of these oversized figures are coming together for a provocative parade at the traditional Mainz carnival celebrations in western Germany. They included a victorious British Prime Minister Boris Johnson with a grim looking Queen Elizabeth II standing behind him; a bare-chested Russian President Vladimir Putin holding a remote control to steer Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan atop a tank; and a triumphant U.S. President Donald Trump playing the harp like Roman Emperor Nero. The Mainzer Carnival Association presented the colorful figures for a first



Lewis Capaldi, Dave win at politically tinged

Brit Awards

Trump says he knows identity of 'Anonymous' tell-all writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Tuesday he knows the identity of the author known as "Anonymous," the senior administration official who wrote an inside-the-White House account that painted the president as inept and dangerous.

Trump's claim comes as speculation has grown inside Washington about the identity of the official who penned the book "A Warning" as well as an eviscerating 2018 essay in The New York Times about the president's "misguided impulses."

"I know who it is," Trump told reporters. "I can't tell you that. ... We won't get into it."

In the book, published by

the Hachette Book Group in November, the writer claims senior administration officials considered resigning as a group in 2018 in a "midnight self-massacre," but ultimately decided such an act would do more harm than good.

Ahead of the book's publication, the Justice Department sent a letter to Hachette and the writer's literary agency, raising questions over whether any confidentiality agreement had been violated and asking for information that could help reveal the author's identity.

Hachette responded by saying it would provide no additional information beyond calling the author a "current or former senior official."

Wife says friend living upstairs should move on

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have a friend, "George," who rents our upstairs. Our home is large, and the second floor has all the amenities of a 2,500-square-foot house. He has his separate entrance and never has to come through our living space.

In the beginning, I agreed to the arrangement because he was going through a divorce and needed a place to live. Now, for the past several months, his ex has been spending nights upstairs. We just celebrated the holidays, and his family was here together.

I'm feeling very confused and uncomfortable having them both up there. Now that George seems to have worked through his marital problems, I feel it's time he moves out. My husband doesn't understand why I feel this way and can't understand why I want my house back! Please give me some insight on how to handle this. Or am I overreacting? Please tell me I'm not being selfish.

BEING USED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR BEING USED: You are not selfish, and you're not overreacting. Refresh your husband's memory about how the arrangement began. It was a safe refuge for a friend going through a traumatic life change. Those circumstances no longer apply, and if you are not comfortable with George entertaining his ex under your roof, it is understandable. Communal living is not for everyone.

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my husband booked me and our

infant son on a trip to visit some of his family in California. I didn't want to go in the first place because I was, and still am, struggling with postpartum depression, anxiety and stress in our relationship.

I had one request: Do not put me and our infant son in the head-of-the-household's car. My husband's father drives recklessly and shows no regard for human life. Well, of course my husband didn't speak up about it, and we ended up in Mr. Reckless' car. Now I look like "the difficult wife" because I'd rather catch a rideshare or fly back home. Am I being dramatic or overly concerned with safety?

SAFE OR SORRY IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR SAFE OR SORRY: Overly concerned? It's your job to be concerned with safety. Because your husband failed to speak up didn't mean that YOU shouldn't have.

As a mother, you are responsible for your baby's safety. You should have expressed that if you and your little one—in a child seat, I presume—couldn't travel in someone else's vehicle, you would be taking other transportation. In the future, when visiting your in-laws, this is what you should do.

DEAR ABBY: Today was warm, so my friend and I went for a walk with my dog at a neighborhood park. We decided to rest on a park bench that was shaded by trees. A man was sitting there, and I asked if he would mind if we shared the bench

glimpse Tuesday before they will entertain the crowds on top of floats next week in the traditional Shrove Monday street parade.

Portman, Copeland to speak at booksellers' convention

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Natalie Portman and dancer Misty Copeland will be sharing a stage this spring as they discuss a common identity—children's book author. Reed-pop announced Tuesday that Portman and Copeland are among the scheduled speakers during an author's breakfast at BookExpo, which takes place the last week of May at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. Judy Blume will host the event, with other guests including best-selling writers Raj Haldar, Marie Lu and Kwame Mbalia. Portman will be promoting her debut book,

"Natalie Portman's Fables," in which she retells "The Tortoise and the Hare," "The Three Little Pigs" and "City Mouse/Country Mouse." Copeland's "Bunheads" is the first of a planned picture book series based on her experiences in ballet. Her previous works include the memoir "Life In Motion" and the picture book "Firebird."

Queen Elizabeth II's nephew and wife agree to divorce

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II's nephew and his wife have amicably agreed to end their marriage, the couple said in a statement. The Earl of Snowden, David Armstrong-Jones, and his wife Serena, the Countess of Snowden, agreed to separate after more than 25 years of marriage. Armstrong-Jones is the son of the monarch's late

sister, Princess Margaret and became earl in 2017 upon the death of his father, former celebrity photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones. The couple wed in October 1993 and have two children. The earl, who is known professionally as David Linley, has written books about furniture and styling the home. The announcement Monday comes only days after one of the queen's grandsons, Peter Phillips, and wife Autumn also revealed they intended to divorce. The couple said in a statement last week that the separation was sad but amicable. They plan to share custody of daughters Savannah, 9, and Isla, 7. The 42-year-old Phillips is the son of Princess Anne and is the only one of the queen's eight grandchildren to divorce so far. Three of the monarch's four children had marriages that ended in divorce.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

with him. The man said he was waiting for a personal call. I told him we wouldn't listen and sat down. The man stood up and said angrily that we should have respected the fact he was there first and stalked off! Were we wrong to sit down?

BAFFLED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BAFFLED: No, you were not wrong. It's a public park. If the man was uncomfortable talking in front of you, he should have taken his phone and talked elsewhere—which he did.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



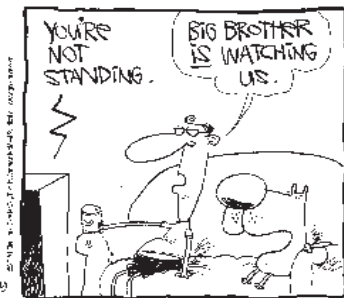
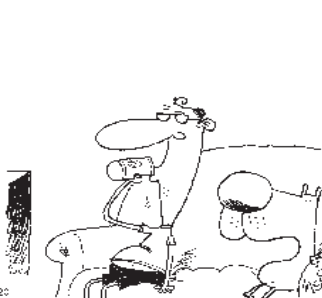
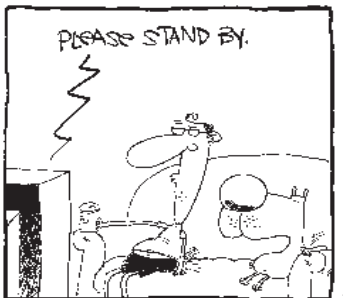
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Obey

5 Author Bellow

9 Arrest

12 Sicilian peak

13 O'Hara estate

14 Decorate a cake

15 Hearty soup legumes

17 Mormon church, for short

18 Fashions

19 Kick out

21 Tagged player

22 Ersatz chocolate

24 Philosopher Immanuel

27 Purring pet

28 Stately trees

31 "As I see it," in a text

32 Lennon's love

33 Diamond arbiter

34 Country's McEntire

DOWN

1 Coop group

2 Coup d'—

3 Jealousy

4 Naturally illuminated

5 Fr. holy women

6 Small battery

7 Ornate vase

8 Surgical beam

9 Color named

10 Outlet letters

11 Optimum

16 Wager

20 Average guy

22 Venice waterway

23 Perched on

24 White wine cocktail

25 Soul, to Camus

26 "Don't worry about it"

27 Apple center

29 Roman 2010

30 CIA operative

35 "— dream- ing?"

37 Avoids, as work

39 Sean and William

40 Globe

41 — mater

42 Tide variety

43 Russian ruler

44 — colada

45 Oahu souvenirs

46 New news

49 Nosh

50 New Dea agcy.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rihanna, 32; Brian Littrell, 45; Willie Garson, 56; Sidney Poitier, 93.

Happy Birthday: Size up situations, and make whatever move you feel will benefit you most. Putting energy behind your ideas instead of trying to get others to do things for you will make your pursuits more meaningful moving forward. Dump unnecessary baggage, and you'll have the freedom to take advantage of whatever comes your way. Your experience will pay off. Your numbers are 2, 8, 14, 21, 25, 34, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't wait for something to go wrong. Be counterintuitive and active, and make adjustments that will help lighten any problem you can foresee. Being prepared and having alternatives in place are your best defenses. Put yourself first. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get upset when you should get moving. Embrace change and challenges openly, and you will gain experience as well as achievements. Look at the possibilities, but use discretion and moderation as you move forward. Traveling and learning are favored. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't play with the devil. Avoid getting involved in tempting offers that sound too good to be true. Do your own thing, and avoid being taken advantage of by someone who is out for his or her gain. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make adjustments to your personal or professional contracts. Tie up loose ends, and make a

point to take better care of your health. An opportunity is heading down the pipeline. Don't hesitate, or you may miss out on a prosperous prospect. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let's get physical. Take pride in the way you look, how you feel and the way you handle meaningful relationships. Don't worry about what others are doing. Stick to what you know works best for you. A personal gain should be your priority. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Everything will fall into place if you follow your heart and your basic instincts. A change you want to make will give you more freedom to work on an idea you want to pursue. A past partner is likely to surface. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Work alone. Refuse to let anyone interfere in your business or put pressure on you to do something you don't want to do. Deception is apparent. Verify any information you receive before you take action. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do things your way. It's OK to take an obscure route to reach your goal. Your uniqueness is what makes you so special. You can accomplish plenty if you follow your intuition and use your intelligence to reach your goal. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to what and who are important to you. Don't let someone cause doubt or uncertainty between you and someone you love. Meddling and deception are likely if someone is out for his or her gain. ★★

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Say what's on your mind, and you will get your way. Your determination and perception will help you reach your goal. Now is not the time to sit back when there is no potential to gain ground. Rid yourself of dead weight. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take time to enjoy what and who interests you. Participating in causes you care about will lead to exciting people, plans and new beginnings. Personal improvements are favored, and romance will give you an added boost. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Wheel and deal. Keep your life mysterious, and focus on professional gain. You will intrigue the people you encounter, putting you in an influential position with plenty to gain. A humanitarian outlook will win acceptance. Think big. ★★★★★

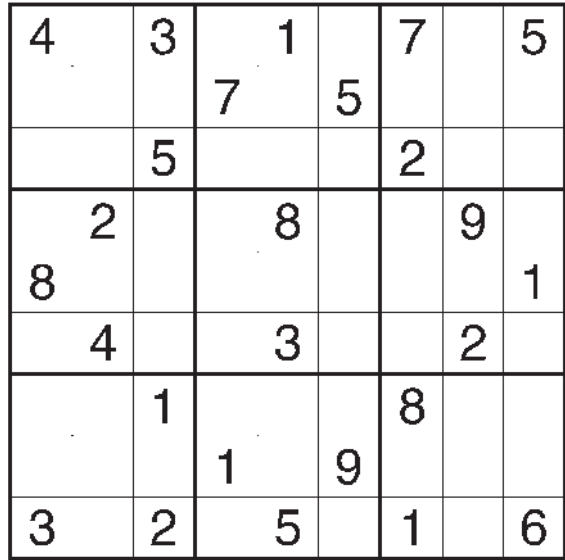
Birthday Baby: You are innovative, curious and independent. You are strong-willed and persistent.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

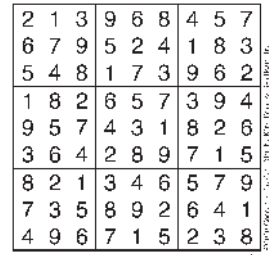


Difficulty Level ★★★

2/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Not Truly Solved ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PARKING PASSES

Solution: 9 letters



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2/20

Annual, Apply, Area, Gard, Chip, Cost, Daily, Dashboard, Display, Driver, Dropoff, Guests, Hour, Label, License, Limit, Location, Maps, Number, Officer, Online, Order, Parks, Patrol, Patron, Permit, Place, Print, Property, Rate, Record, Renew, Resident, Road, School, Space, Staff, Sticker, Street, Temporary, Ticket, Time, Trail, Vehicle, Venue, Visitors
Yesterday's Answer: Tickle
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STUMPED?

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This is to inform the public that Mark Franklin Ferrer is no longer connected with Dong A Corporation dba Hana Trading effective February 26, 2020.

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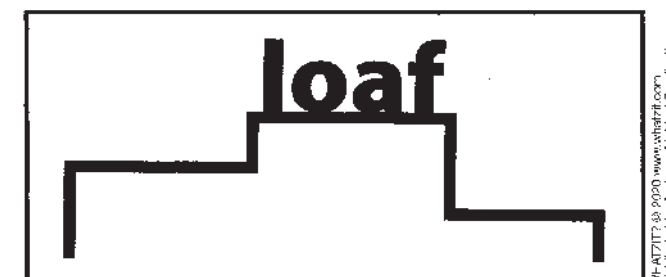
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Kyrie out again due to shoulder injury



NEW YORK (AP)—Kyrie Irving won't play in the Brooklyn Nets' first game after the All-Star break because of more trouble with his right shoulder that sidelined him earlier this season.

Nets coach Kenny Atkinson told reporters Tuesday that Irving would see a specialist this week and that he would have more information on the guard's availability afterward.

Irving missed 26 games during his first season in Brooklyn with an impingement. He got a cortisone shot in December instead of having arthroscopic surgery, though acknowledged that surgery might still be necessary.

Irving has been sidelined recently with a sprained right knee. He has played in just 20 of the Nets' 53 games. Brooklyn returns from the All-Star break Thursday at Philadelphia.

Meanwhile, the Detroit Pistons and Reggie Jackson have agreed on a contract buyout, paving the way for the veteran guard to sign with another team.

Detroit announced the agreement Tuesday.

Jackson is in the final season of his five-year, \$80 million deal he signed in 2015 with the Pistons, who acquired him earlier that year in a trade with Oklahoma City.

The 29-year-old Jackson is averaging 14.9 points and 5.1 assists this season, but he has been limited to just 14 games this season due to a back injury.

The Thunder drafted the former Boston College star with the 24th pick overall in 2011 and he has averaged 12.9 points and 4.4 assists over his career.

The Los Angeles Clippers are expected to sign Jackson after the veteran guard completes a buyout with the Pistons.



AP
Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving (11) drives around Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert (27) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, in New York.

The move adds backcourt depth for the Clippers as they prepare for what promises to be a rigorous path through the Western Conference playoffs.

The addition of Jackson is the second significant in-season transaction for the Clippers after they traded for Marcus Morris at the trade deadline. The Clippers also reportedly had their sights set on Darren Collison before the free agent guard reportedly opted to remain retired. The rival Los Angeles Lakers were also reportedly in the mix for Collison.

Jackson appears to be a consolation prize after Collison's decision to stay off the court. He'll provide another weapon with 3-point range off

the bench to a backcourt that already employs Paul George, Patrick Beverley, Lou Williams and Landry Shamet.

Cavs coach steps down

John Beilein's tenure as Cleveland Cavaliers head coach is over after half a season, and the team didn't have to look far to find his replacement.

Cavaliers assistant coach J.B. Bickerstaff will take over as head coach after Beilein says goodbye to staff and players at the end of the All-Star break, according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski.

It appears Beilein and not the Cavaliers is triggering the exit, which means the coach will be walking away from a contract with four guaranteed

seasons at an annual salary between \$4 million and \$4.5 million, according to The Athletic's Shams Charania and Jason Lloyd.

Wojnarowski also reports reports that Bickerstaff will take over as full-time head coach for the Cavs, not just as an interim coach.

Hired last summer after more than 40 years of coaching at the college and high school level, Beilein was an odd choice for the Cavaliers job given that he was 66 years old at the time and had zero experience coaching at the professional level.

Between reports of players unhappy with his "nitpicking" coaching style, him apologizing to players after calling

them thugs and a heated exchange with veteran center Tristan Thompson, Beilein's transition to the NBA was beyond turbulent. That was reflected in the Cavaliers' record of 14-40, currently last in the Eastern Conference.

What's next for Beilein is up to him. He could go back to the college level almost immediately, as there would likely be no shortage of teams looking to reproduce the results he had at Michigan. He could take some time off from coaching after what has likely been a draining year for him. Or he could just retire at 67 years old.

What is abundantly clear is that NBA teams aren't going to come calling for Beilein anytime soon.

This should be a familiar feeling for the 40-year-old Bickerstaff.

This will now be the third time Bickerstaff has been promoted from assistant to head coach in the middle of a season. Previously, Bickerstaff has served as the interim head coach for the Houston Rockets after the firing of Kevin McHale in 2015 and as full-time head coach for the Memphis Grizzlies after the firing of David Fizdale.

Bickerstaff has a career head coaching record of 85-131 across three seasons. He was hired as Beilein's top assistant last summer in Cleveland, where his father Bernie Bickerstaff is a senior basketball advisor.

MIAMI (AP)—Chris Bosh is not hiding his frustration about not being a finalist for this year's enshrinement class for the Basketball Hall of Fame.

The former Miami and Toronto forward released a video statement on social media Tuesday, using some version of the word disappoint—be it "disappointed," "disappointment" or "disappointing"—no fewer than 15 times in 5 minutes.

Bosh was a surprising omission last week from the class of eight finalists announced by the Hall as still being under consideration for enshrinement this year, a list that included contemporary players Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett. The class of inductees will be revealed in Atlanta on April 4 at the

Bosh expresses disappointment over Hall of Fame snub

men's college basketball Final Four, and the Basketball Hall of Fame ceremony is in Springfield, Massachusetts, on Aug. 29.

"I'm going to be honest with you," Bosh said. "I'm a competitive man. I've been competing my whole life. A lot of people don't really know that about me, but I'm a fierce competitor. Losing bothers me. Coming up short bothers me. It always has, you know, since the moment I started playing basketball and it kind of bleeds over into everything that I do. So I'll just get ahead of it. And so you hear this from me, I'm disappointed."

Bosh is one of 13 players in NBA history to average 19.2

points and 8.5 rebounds in a career that included at least 11 All-Star selections.

The other 12—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain, Karl Malone, Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley, Moses Malone, Hakeem Olajuwon, Larry Bird, Bob Pettit, Patrick Ewing, Elvin Hayes and Elgin Baylor—are all in the Hall of Fame.

Bosh is also the only Hall-eligible player with 17,189 points, 7,592 rebounds, 1,795 assists, 11 All-Star selections and two championships who is not already in, or a finalist this year for, the Hall of Fame. There are other players with those numbers, such as LeBron James

and Dirk Nowitzki, who are not yet eligible because they're still playing or retired too recently.

"One of the things people like to say is, 'Oh, next year,'" Bosh said. "What if there's not a next year? That's something that I think about every day. And I hope you think about it as well, but what if there's not a tomorrow? What does that even mean? That is a definite question that's been on my mind quite a bit, but I just have to be honest with you guys. I'm very disappointed."

Bosh, who turns 36 next month, said he wishes he was still playing and believes he would still be in the NBA if

not for the health issues that abruptly ended his career in 2016. Bosh had at least two bouts with blood clots.

He was an All-Star for Miami in his final season, 2015-16. He was averaging 19.1 points and 7.4 rebounds that season and had just arrived in Toronto for that year's All-Star Game when a clot in one of his legs was discovered.

He never played again. Bosh eventually came to grips with that reality, saw his jersey be retired by the Heat—the team with whom he won two championships, a stint perhaps most notably remembered by his rebound and assist that set up Ray Allen's season-saving, game-tying 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds left in Game 6 of the

2013 NBA Finals against San Antonio. Bosh also blocked a 3-point try by Danny Green at the end of overtime to seal Miami's three-point win, and the Heat would go on to win Game 7 for their second straight title.

"I've been disappointed with my career coming up short," Bosh said. "I feel that I should still be playing basketball right now, but that's neither here nor there. That was in my goals. That was in my plans and it just did not work out like that. I don't want to be in this position. Now I'm here dealing with that. Had other plans, started making plans on the potentiality of going in with such a great class, didn't even qualify. You know what I mean? ... It's just disappointing."



Brees passing on retirement, will play in 2020



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Quarterback Drew Brees' record-setting NFL career is on track for a 20th season—and a 15th with the New Orleans Saints.

The 41-year-old Brees announced his intention to return for what would be his 20th NFL season in a social media post on Tuesday.

"My feelings about the 2020 season! I look forward to the grind and the journey, for the reward at the end will be worth it," Brees wrote in his announcement. "Love you (hash) WhoDatNation. Let's make another run at it!"

Brees missed five games with a throwing hand injury that required surgery but was still productive last season while leading New Orleans to a third straight playoff appearance. Brees' 74.3% completion rate ranked second in NFL history behind only his 2018 record of 74.4%.

He also passed for 27 touchdowns while throwing just four interceptions and was selected to a fourth straight Pro Bowl, the 13th of his career.

His decision to return will set in motion negotiations on a new contract. His last contract voids automatically at the end of the current league year that concludes March 18.

A person familiar with the situation says new contract negotiations have yet to begin and there is no immediate timetable for reaching a deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither Brees nor the Saints have publicly discussed the matter.

Saints coach Sean Payton and general manager Mickey Loomis both have stated an interest in bringing Brees back if the quarterback, who turned 41 on Jan. 15, still wanted to play.

If recent history is a guide, negotiations should not be problematic. Twice since 2016, Brees has accepted two-year deals that, while still generous, were geared more toward providing the Saints a measure of salary cap flexibil-



In this Jan. 5, 2020 file photo, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) passes in the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Minnesota Vikings in New Orleans.

ity than pushing the limits of the NFL QB market. Last season, Brees contract was worth nearly \$23 million.

Brees is the NFL's all-time leader in completions with 6,867, yards passing with 77,416, and touchdowns with 547. His career touchdowns mark is most vulnerable, just six ahead of 20-year Patriots veteran Tom Brady. Although Brady's contract also is expiring, he has stated his intention to also keep playing, be it in

New England or elsewhere.

With 74,571 career yards passing, Brady also would have been in realistic one-season striking distance of Brees' yardage mark if Brees decided to retire.

Meanwhile, Brees' decision is likely to have implications for the younger quarterbacks on the Saints' roster. Backup Teddy Bridgewater, who has resurrected his career in New Orleans, could find opportunities to be

a starter elsewhere.

Bridgewater was a first-round draft pick by Minnesota in 2014, but missed most of three seasons from 2015-17 with a career-threatening knee injury before spending the past two seasons as a backup with New Orleans. He didn't always put up prolific passing numbers during Brees' absence in 2019, but went 5-0 as a starter while completing 67.9% of his passes for 1,384 yards, nine TDs and

two interceptions.

Saints' third-string QB Taysom Hill also played a regular role, though not always in conventional ways. In addition to periodically subbing in for Brees as a read-option QB, he also has contributed in the receiving and running game and on special teams.

Hill has stated that he also would like an opportunity to become a starter. But his unproven record as an every-down QB could weaken the market for him as a restricted free agent and make returning to the Saints his best option.

Olsen agrees to 1-year deal with Seahawks

In North Carolina, a person familiar with the situation says three-time Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen has agreed to a one-year, \$7 million contract with the Seattle Seahawks.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the deal has not been announced by the team.

Olsen was released by the Panthers earlier this month after nine seasons with the team amid a rebuilding process under first-year coach Matt Rhule. Olsen has caught 718 passes for 8,444 yards and 59 touchdowns during his 13-year NFL career. He spent his first four seasons with the Chicago Bears.

Olsen had 52 catches for 697 yards and two touchdowns last season for the Panthers.

The 34-year-old Olsen chose the Seahawks after visiting with the Buffalo Bills and former coach Ron Rivera, now with the Washington Redskins. Olsen has also been weighing a future in television broadcasting.

A two-time finalist for the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award, Olsen was one of the most popular players on the Panthers for the better part of the last decade. Olsen made it clear late last season he wasn't willing to stick around for a rebuild because he wanted to win a Super Bowl.

The Seahawks finished 11-5 last season.

MEXICO—The Top 2 players from last year's WGC-Mexico Championship are topping the odds for this week's event - just not in the order you might expect.

Dustin Johnson has been a force at Club de Golf Chapultepec, winning twice in the three years since the event shifted from Doral. That includes last year, when he cruised to victory and finished five shots ahead of runner-up Rory McIlroy.

But this time it's the world No. 1 who is the betting favorite according to oddsmakers at the Westgate Las Vegas SuperBook, who installed McIlroy at 6/1 followed by Johnson at 8/1.

But the first WGC event of the year is not the only tournament on the PGA Tour calendar this week. A full field will also head to the Isle of Enchantment for the Puerto Rico Open, where former U.S.

McIlroy favored over Dustin Johnson at WGC

Amateur champ Viktor Hovland headlines the field. Hovland, who remains in search of his first win as a pro, is listed as a 10/1 favorite, followed by 2018 Ryder Cup participant Alex Noren.

Meanwhile, in 2018, Adam Scott pared his World Golf Championship schedule and skipped the year's first two WGC starts: Mexico and the Match Play.

He repeated that schedule last year, figuring, "I'll just play the [tournaments] I like."

But his WGC hiatus is over, at least for this year.

Scott, who won last week's Genesis Invitational, is playing this week's WGC-Mexico Championship for the first time since 2017. He said on Tuesday he also plans to play next month's WGC-Dell

Technologies Match Play.

"For the last couple years, I've put World Golf Championships in and out of the schedule a little bit, trying to find what's working for me," he said. "But as I've started playing better and better last year, to be the best player out here, you've got to play against the best, and that means coming to these events."

The Australian's schedule changes go beyond the WGCs. Last year at this time, Scott had played six events, including four on the West Coast. Last week's tournament in Los Angeles was his first start in 2020 and just his fifth this season.

Scott hopes that mixing up his schedule, with scheduled starts at the Arnold Palmer

Invitational, The Players and Match Play, will give him the best chance to be ready for the Masters.

"You're really right into Masters preparation off the back of The Players," he said.

"I thought the Match Play has never been the first one on my schedule, but it's another opportunity for me to see at least three competitive rounds of golf—where I'm at, what I need to work on, keep me competitively fresh with a week off before the Masters."

The year's first World Golf Championships event returns to Chapultepec Golf Club for the fourth time this week, and the conversations on Tuesday predictably revolved around the layout's elevation (7,600-

plus feet above sea level) and how the thin air makes the silly distances these modern players hit the ball even sillier.

For Bryson DeChambeau's, who was deep into an intense range session (even by his workhorse standards), the discussion was much welcomed; the combination of science and speculation is like Christmas in February and the SATs all wrapped into one.

"It's fun for me," said DeChambeau, the Tour's resident big brain. "It just makes the golf course super short, but that doesn't mean it's going to be easy. That's a bad correlation."

With not one but two launch-monitor devices perched around him measuring every swing, DeChambeau crunched the numbers for more than an hour Tuesday morning. They

were video-game numbers that defy the laws of what should be possible.

During his trial-and-error session, DeChambeau took a particularly vicious lash at one driver to produce a carry distance of 397 yards. "When I swung it at 187 [mph] ball speed it went 397. It's completely unrealistic to normal golf, but it's fun to do. It makes me happy," he said.

But one man's fun can be another's fear.

As entertaining as this week's mile-high proceedings are to watch for players, those silly numbers add a level of uncertainty to a game that is already riddled with unknowns. Hitting 397-yard drives may be entertaining—and it is entertaining—but the same forces of nature and aerodynamics apply to every shot in the bag, creating an unsettling guessing game.

Kershaw: Use anger over cheating Astros as fuel



GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP)—Clayton Kershaw

is pleased practically everybody in the sport seized the opportunity to tee off on the cheating Houston Astros and Commissioner Rob Manfred's handling of the scandal over the past several days.

The Los Angeles Dodgers' veteran ace also believes it's time for baseball to go back to work.

"This type of thing has never happened before, and people are upset by it," Kershaw said Tuesday after the Dodgers' first full squad workout of the spring. "People feel cheated, and rightfully so. The only thing I will say now is we've got a great season coming up. Everybody is really excited about baseball. Baseball is in a great spot. We've got a lot of incredible players."

Kershaw echoed the vibe around the clubhouse with the team that was among the most damaged by—and the angriest about—the Astros' use of illegal methods during their 2017 World Series championship run. The Dodgers haven't cooled down about the revelations, but Kershaw thinks that energy can be channeled into a quest to win an untainted ring in 2020.

MVP Cody Bellinger and Justin Turner ripped Houston and Manfred with equal zeal, while Los Angeles closer Kenley Jansen called it "the worst thing that could have happened to baseball. Worse than steroids, in my opinion."

Three-time AL MVP Mike Trout from the crosstown Los Angeles Angels joined the chorus Monday, and Kershaw was glad to see that as well.

"To hear that you've lost respect from the best player in the game like that, that hurts," Kershaw said. "I think the message is getting sent loud and clear that this is unprecedented."

Kershaw repeatedly made the point that the players' righteous indignation can serve as fuel to power a loaded team that added Mookie Betts and David Price shortly before camp opened.

Dodgers President Stan Kasten had a simple message when he addressed the team during its morning clubhouse meeting: the Astros' misdeeds are terrible, but that won't help the Dodgers this summer.

"If you look at the last four, five years, we've won more baseball games than anyone in baseball," manager Dave Roberts said. "So it's just the challenge of putting the blinders on, and now it's time to play baseball and get better each day."



Kershaw said the negativity of the atmosphere around the cheating scandal is putting a damper on a typical time of optimism.

"I love baseball," Kershaw said. "I'm excited about it, and I'm just thinking about the 12-year-old kid that hears all this stuff, and it's hard to decipher. It's just a lot of negative, negative, negative, and rightfully so. It's a lot of stuff that's going on that shouldn't have happened. But at the same time, this season is happening. We're excited about it."

Kershaw said he would like to see more headlines about the Washington Nationals, who knocked the seven-time NL West champion Dodgers out of the division series last October. That defeat ended LA's 106-victory season in disappointing fashion coming off back-to-back NL pennants.

Once the focus turns away from the Astros, Kershaw also hopes to hear more talk about the Dodgers' renewed commitment to winning, particularly with the acquisitions of Betts and Price.

"The Dodgers are doing all they can to win," said Cubs star Kris Bryant, who has also been subjected to trade speculation. "They really want to win, and that's kind of admirable. They're really going for it. They traded away a really good outfielder that really helped their team last year for maybe one year of Mookie Betts, which they saw as a chance to get them a World Series. Good for them. I wish more teams would kind of follow that in terms of really trying to win, go all in."

Manfred apologizes for 'piece of metal' comments

Meanwhile, MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred apologized Tuesday for what he called a disrespectful reference to the World Series trophy as a "piece of metal."

Even before being asked about it, Manfred said he made a mistake with those comments while trying to deliver a rhetorical point in an interview two days earlier.

"I referred to the World Se-

ries trophy in a disrespectful way, and I want to apologize for it," Manfred said. "There's no excuse for it. ... It was a mistake to say what I said."

MLB players, already upset with Manfred's handling of the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal and some of his comments in trying to explain it, became further infuriated by his "piece of metal" comment during a lengthy interview with ESPN on Sunday, the same day he spoke in Florida.

Even NBA superstar LeBron James joined the anti-Astros chorus, voicing his anger on social media Tuesday.

While speaking at the Cactus League media day in the Arizona desert, Manfred also pledged Tuesday to protect Oakland right-hander Mike Fiers, the ex-Astros pitcher who became the whistleblower when he went public in November to The Athletic.

"We will take every possible step to protect Mike Fiers wherever he's playing, whether it's in Houston or somewhere else," Manfred

AP
Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw pitches during spring training baseball Friday, Feb. 14, 2020, in Phoenix.

said. "Mike did the industry a service."

The Astros play their first road game of the regular season March 30 at the A's, who won 97 games each of the past two years to finish second to Houston in the AL West both times.

Cubs lefty Jon Lester, a three-time World Series champion—with the Boston Red Sox in 2007 and 2013, and Chicago in 2016—had some

choice words for the commissioner earlier Tuesday.

"That's somebody that has never played our game. You play for a reason, you play for that piece of metal. I'm very proud of the three that I have," Lester said at Cubs camp in Mesa, Arizona. "If that's the way he feels, then he needs to take his name off the trophy."

Lester said the first thing he shows visitors at his house are the displayed trophies he has won.

"I'm proud of them. That's a lot of years, a lot of hard work. You can't just bring it down like that," the five-time All-Star said.

Nats look back at Series, then ahead, as full workouts start

FLORIDA (AP)—Carter Kieboom, a rookie who will get a shot to be the Washington Nationals' starting third baseman on opening day, took grounders alongside Asdrubal Cabrera, a versatile, 14th-year infielder who was among seven free agents returning to the World Series champions.

Across the diamond on Field 3 at the club's spring training facility, Ryan Zimmerman, another one of those returnees, shared duties at first base with Eric Thames, one of the few new faces expected to be on the 26-man roster.

A short while later Tuesday, at Field 6, slugging left fielder Juan Soto sent kids chasing balls that flew over the wall as he joined Howie Kendrick and Cabrera for the first round of batting practice.

As the Nationals engaged in their first full-squad workout, manager Dave Martinez's message was simple: Go ahead and think about the special moments of 2019, but also make sure to realize it's time to start over.

"It's 2020 now. At some point, you have to turn the page," said Zimmerman, back for his 16th season and the only player to be with the Nationals every year they have been in the nation's capital. "No one will ever take that year away from us, obviously. But for us to succeed this year, we have to move forward."

First, there will be some more reflecting in the days to come.

Some of that happened Tuesday, when Martinez gathered everyone for the daily top-of-the-morning "Circle of Trust," with all players and staff members, general manager Mike Rizzo and owner Mark Lerner meeting for more than a

half-hour, standing on a team logo on an artificial turf agility field.

Nearby, a drill whirled as a sign marking the team's Fall Classic triumph was affixed to a wall near a door leading to the home clubhouse.

Wednesday and Thursday will bring finger measurements, so championship rings can be sized. A parade honoring the team will be held in West Palm Beach on Thursday.

On Saturday, Washington will face the team it beat in the World Series—and the team it shares this complex with, and the team at the center of a sign-stealing scandal that is the talk of the baseball—in a Grapefruit League opener.

And on April 4, at the second game of the season at Nationals Park, the title rings will be distributed.

"I like what Davey said: 'It's not about trying to repeat, it's about trying to compete.' That's why we were great last year. We competed," shortstop Trea Turner said. "I would never say 'We are going to repeat,' but let's have fun and enjoy it and see what happens."

While one big name no longer around is Anthony Rendon, the third baseman who left to sign a \$245 million contract with the Los Angeles Angels, Turner is one of the many holdovers from a year ago.

Washington put aside a slow start that carried into May to play its best baseball when it mattered the most.

There was a lot made of the team with the oldest roster in the majors using a unique combination of camaraderie and mix of contributors to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers, St. Louis Cardinals and Astros in October.

Too early to say whether virus threatens Olympics

GENEVA (AP)—Despite a virus outbreak spreading from China, a top World Health Organization official said Tuesday it's much too soon to say whether the Tokyo Olympics are at risk of being cancelled or moved.

Tokyo organizers and the International Olympic Committee have repeatedly said they have no contingency plans for the July 24-Aug. 9 Summer Games since the WHO declared a global health emergency last month.

The U.N. agency's emergency program director, Michael Ryan, said Tuesday the sporting event was "way too far" away to consider giving advice that would affect Tokyo's hosting of the Olympics. "We are not there to make a decision for that," Ryan told The Associated Press on the sidelines of a news conference at WHO headquarters.

Geneva-based WHO has been in regular contact with the IOC in nearby Lausanne since the virus known as COVID-19 emerged in December.

"We don't give them judgments," Ryan said. "We assist them with their risk assessment. We will be working closely with them in the coming weeks and months."

The death toll in mainland China due to the virus rose to almost 1,900 on Tuesday, with more than 72,000 confirmed cases.

The outbreak has caused numerous sports events in China

to be canceled, postponed, or moved, including qualifying events for the Tokyo Olympics.

Chinese athletes and teams have also been unable to travel for some competitions. China sent a team of more than 400 athletes at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. It won 70 medals, including 26 gold, and placed third in the medals table.

Around 11,000 athletes and many more team coaches and officials from more than 200 national teams are expected in Japan for the Olympics.

Japan has experienced the most significant outbreak of the virus outside of China, on the cruise ship Diamond Princess docked in quarantine at Yokohama in Tokyo Bay.

During a 14-day isolation that ends Wednesday, 542 cases have been identified among more than 3,700 passengers and crew.

Below is the list of sports events affected by the coronavirus outbreak:

ATHLETICS

World indoor championships in Nanjing from March 13-15 postponed to March 2021.

Hong Kong Marathon on Feb. 9 cancelled.

Asian indoor championships in Hangzhou from Feb. 12-13 cancelled.

Tokyo Marathon on March 1: Restricted to elite runners.

BADMINTON

China Masters in Hainan from

SIS in the last game.

Agape 32—A. Liang 6, Bao 5, Wang 4, Tang 4, Fu 4, T. Liang 3 B. Li 2, H. Li 2, Qi 2.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School 2's Derek Sasamoto, left, faces two Agape Christian School defenders during the second half of their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Feb. 25-March 1 postponed. New dates not set.

Asian team championships in Manila from Feb. 11-16: China and Hong Kong withdrew.

BASKETBALL

Women's Olympic qualifying tournament moved from Foshan to Belgrade, Serbia from Feb. 6-9.

Asia Cup qualifiers postponed: Philippines vs. Thailand on Feb. 20; Japan vs. China on Feb. 21, China vs. Malaysia on Feb. 24. Matches scheduled for Hong Kong moved to opponents' homes.

BIATHLON

Olympic test event in Zhangjiakou from Feb. 27-March 2 cancelled.

BOXING

Asia-Oceania Olympic qualifier moved from Wuhan to Amman, Jordan from March 3-11.

FIELD HOCKEY

Hockey Pro League matches between China and Belgium on Feb. 8-9 and Australia on March 14-15 postponed.

India women's tour of China from March 14-25 cancelled.

Ireland women's tour of Malaysia in March-April cancelled.

GOLF

US LPGA Tour Honda LPGA Thailand in Pattaya from Feb. 20-23 cancelled.

MCS 2 12— Sasamoto 3, Lee 3, Tenorio 2, Torres 2, Palacios 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-5, 32-12

HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore from Feb. 27-March 1 cancelled.

Blue Bay LPGA on Hainan Island from March 5-8 cancelled.

European Tour

Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from April 16-19 postponed.

China Open in Shenzhen from April 23-26 postponed.

GYMNASTICS

Artistic World Cup in Melbourne, Australia from Feb. 20-23: China team withdrew.

HANDBALL

Olympic women's qualifying tournament in Montenegro from March 20-22: China withdrew. Hong Kong declined invitation to attend.

ICE HOCKEY

Chinese clubs in Supreme

RACE

From Page 28

6-4. Earlier in their quarterfinal game, the No. 2 seed Woo and Lee eked out a 5-7, 6-4, 10-8 victory over No. 8 Sam Culp and Juncheol Hwang to march into the semifinals. Lee and Woo also needed more time to eliminate Hannah Chae and Lydia Tan in their second round game, 4-6, 7-5, 10-7, while the eventual runners-up's first match against the unranked Danny Jeoung and Sarka Jambor resulted in a straight set victory, 6-3, 6-0.

Meanwhile, Brian Wessel ruled the men's over 40 singles event, while Eun Been Hwang topped the girls U10 singles contest.

Hwang went 2-0 in the round-robin event, beating Eliza Culp, 6-2, and Anne Lee, 6-3. Lee finished second after outclassing Culp, 6-2.

Wessel also earned a 2-0 mark to clinch the men's over 40 singles crown. He first prevailed over Wan Sub Lee, 6-1, 6-0, and completed the perfect record after a 6-2, 6-0 triumph over Gary Ramsey.

KANOA

From Page 28

TanHoldings opened with a 2-0 advantage after the first half and remained on top, as MP United players continued to struggle on offense.

Kohtaroto Goto gave TanHoldings an early goal in the fifth minute, while Oliver Fajardo made it two in row for the eventual winners after hitting his target in the 25th minute.

A shot from Andrew Chung in the 44th minute moved MP United within one, but TanHoldings got the goal back 18 minutes later, courtesy of Goto's conversion.

Hockey League playing home games in Russia.

Women's Challenge Cup of Asia in Manila, Philippines, from Feb. 23-28 cancelled.

JUDO

Paris Grand Slam on Feb. 8-9: China team withdrew.

Dusseldorf Grand Slam on Feb. 21-23: China team withdrew.

RUGBY

Hong Kong Sevens moved from April 3-5 to Oct. 16-18.

Singapore Sevens moved from April 11-12 to Oct. 10-11.

SAILING

Asian Nacra 17 Championship in Shanghai from March 1-6 moved to Genoa, Italy from April 12-19.

Asian 49erFX Championship in Hainan from March

20-29 moved to Genoa, Italy from April 12-19.

SOCCER

Asian Champions League: Matches involving Chinese clubs Guangzhou Evergrande, Shanghai Shenhua, and Shanghai SIPG postponed to April-May. Beijing FC allowed to play from Feb. 18.

Asian women's Olympic qualifying Group B tournament relocated from Wuhan to Sydney from Feb. 3-13. China vs. South Korea playoff on March 11 moved from China to Malaysia.

AFC Cup: All group stage and playoff matches in east zone delayed to April 7.

Chinese Super League, due to start Feb. 22, delayed.

Asian men's futsal championship in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from Feb. 26-March 8 postponed.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Girls U10 champion Eun Been Hwang, right, is joined in the awards ceremony for the 2020 White Coconut Tennis Classic by third placer Eliza Culp, left, and runner-up Anne Lee last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

GIRLS U17 DIVISION

MP United 6, Kanoa 2

Mauryzon Tybaco and Audrey Castro led MP United Football Club's rousing start, as they teamed up in dominating Kanoa Football Club last weekend.

Tybaco and Castro scored three goals apiece, delivering the killer blows in the second half for MP United's season debut win. Tybaco recorded the first goal in the match in the sixth minute and had back-to-back in the second half (37th and 61st minute). Castro, on the other hand, posted MP United's last two goals in a span of three minutes (66th and 69th minute), while her

first came in the 20th.

Kanoa got its pair of goals all in the second half with Donna Kapileo hitting the board in the 28th minute and Lynzey Green doing the same a minute later.

TanHoldings 4, Southern United 0

TanHoldings also notched an easy win in its first game of the season after blanking Southern United.

Four different players scored for TanHoldings with Rizza Relucio drawing first blood in the 28th minute. Tamia Hix, Katrina Costales, and Christina Atalig also found the back of the net for TanHoldings.

AGAPE

From Page 28

also eked out a close win over MHS JV, 25-22, to snap its five-game losing skid, while MCS Varsity kept its perfect record in five games following a 38-18 triumph over KHS 3.

MCS Varsity aims to extend its winning run today when it plays two matches on the north court. The Knights will first face Da'ok at 4:30pm before challenging the streaking Saipan Southern High School at 6pm. Also scheduled on the north court is the duel between KHS 3 and MHS 3.

On the south court, the triple-header will feature MHS Varsity battling SIS in the first match, KHS Varsity squaring off against MCS 2 in the second tiff, and Agape taking on

STANDINGS

TEAMS	W	L
KHS JV	7	0
SSHS	6	0
MCS Varsity	5	0
Agape	5	2
SIS	4	2
MHS Varsity	3	2
KHS Varsity	2	3
MHS 3	1	5
Da'Ok	0	3
MCS 2	0	3
MHS JV	0	7



Kyrie out again due to shoulder injury

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Brees passing on retirement, will play in 2020

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Agape routs Mt. Carmel 2

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School kept its spot at the top half of the team standings in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League after dominating Mt. Carmel School 2, 32-12, last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jim Kurt Maniago, right, dribbles during one of Kanoa Football Club's game in the spring season last year. Kanoa won its season debut in the boys U16 division match in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League after edging Matansa Football Club, 3-2, last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa rallies past Matansa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club averted a season debut loss after pulling off a come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Matansa Football Club in their boys U16 division game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Daniel Mar Pablo saved the day for Kanoa, as he delivered one of the three goals for the squad in the second half. Pablo's conversion in the 53rd minute forced the deadlock, which he eventually broke when he found the back of the net anew in the 67th minute. Jaydee



Jose scored the other goal for Kanoa, as he finally put the team on the board in the 36th minute after being shut down in the first half.

With Kanoa off to a rough start, Matansa managed to stun its favored foe in the first half, leading at 2-0. Gabriel Arkoh registered the pair of goals for Matansa with his first one coming early in the third minute and the second in the 18th.

Matansa then failed to hang on to the lead, as Pablo anchored Kanoa's rally in the second half.

In the other match in the division, TanHoldings outclassed MP United, 3-1.

See KANOA on Page 27



Agape spread the wealth, drawing baskets from nine players to easily beat MCS 2 and improve its record to 5-2 for fourth place in the team standings in the 12-squad field.

Arthur Liang, Bobby Bao, Steven Wang, Eason Tang, and Kobe Fu combined for 23 points to help the Torchbearers rout the Knights, who had no player scoring more than one field goal.

Mt. Carmel 2, which made a late entry into the league, is still winless after three games to join Kagman High School Varsity (2-3), MHS 3 (1-5), Da'Ok Academy (0-3) and MHS JV 9 (0-7) at the bottom half of the team rankings. KHS JV leads the elimination round so far with its 7-0 slate, followed by Saipan Southern High School (6-0), MCS Varsity (5-0), Agape, and Saipan International School (4-2).

SIS also played last Tuesday and bagged its fourth win after downing Da'ok, 31-19, in the first game on the north court. In the second game, KHS JV defeated MHS Varsity, 25-22, to remain unbeaten after seven matches and take the solo lead.

On the south court, MHS 3

See AGAPE on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An Agape Christian School player kicks the ball out, while a Mt. Carmel School 2 player sticks close to him during the second half of their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Race, Wang clinch doubles crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Jeff Race and Hoo Wang were put to a test in the finale of the mixed doubles event of the 2020 White Coconut Tennis Classic and passed after surviving their opponents in an extended championship match.

The long-time CNMI National Team coach and junior player outlasted Jimin Woo and Seo Hee Lee in the title showdown between the Top 2 seeded pairs, 6-3, 6-7, 10-7, last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. The finals match was the only three-set super-tiebreaker game that Race and Wang played in the event.

The eventual champions, who also teamed up in the same tournament last year, but



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, champions Jeff Race and Hoo Wang, runners-up Jimin Woo and Seo Hee Lee, and third placers Wataru Kadokura and Brian Wessel pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2020 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

got an early boot, won their first match at the upper half of the draw after ousting Irin Chung and Jinhui Jeong, 6-2, 6-0. Another straight set victory, this time against Jun Wang and Yebin Shin, 6-0, 6-4, moved Race and Hoo Wang to the quarterfinals.

In the Round of 8, Hoo Wang and Race were still in top form as they defeated No. 6 seed Nason Wessel and Ken Iwaya, 6-1, 6-2, to inch closer to the finals. The No. 1 seed pair reached the title game after bagging its fourth consecutive straight set win, as the duo downed No. 3 seed June Yu and Ji Hwan Ryu, 6-4, 6-2.

Race and Wang's finals foe moved into the championship game after also beating No. 5 seed Wataru Kadokura and Brian Wessel in two sets, 6-3,

See RACE on Page 27